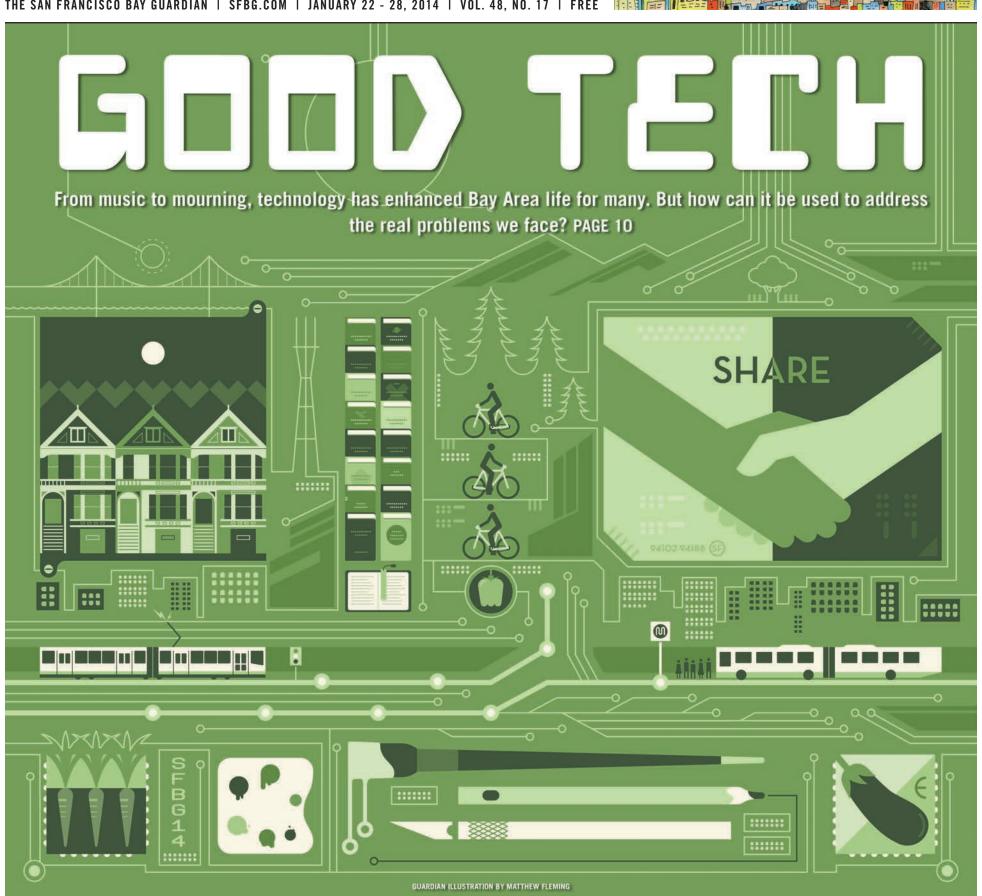
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# **STANDING STRONG**

# **MANHATTANIZATION**

Dance Brigade takes on SF's changing culture P25 Will taller, denser housing make SF affordable? P9 Get your fix at African Film Fest + Noir City P28

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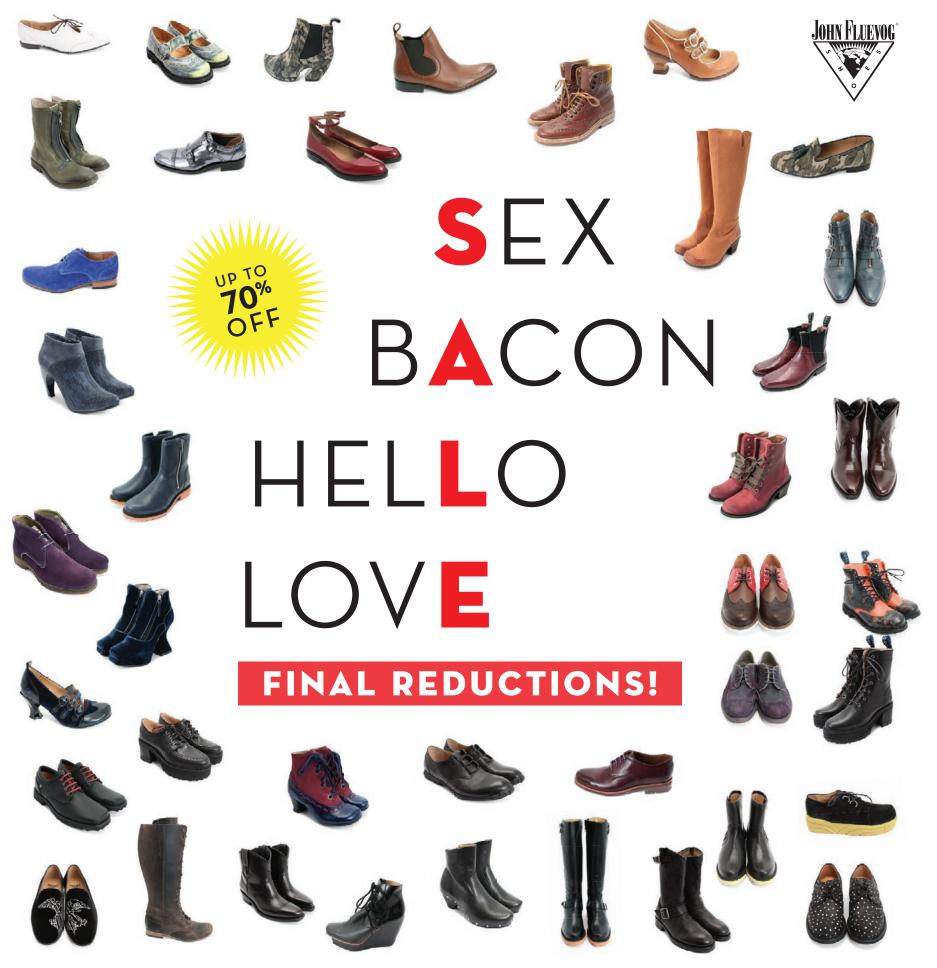






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# INTELLIGENCE (1)









#### **GOOGLE GOOGLE. BUS BLOCK**

More than 100 protesters blocked two more "Google buses" (one reportedly actually bound for Facebook, despite what has become the generic label for the private Silicon Valley shuttles) near UN Plaza on the morning of Jan. 21. The protest was part of the run-up to an afternoon hearing by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Administion on the proposed \$1 per stop fee, which is supported by the tech companies and Mayor Ed Lee but opposed by many activists who say it isn't enough to pay for the tech industry's impacts to the housing market, gentrification, and Muni. For more on the protest and the SFMTA's decision, visit www.sfbg. com/politics



#### NOT-SO-DRY-NUARY

California is officially in a drought, and we all have to do our part to conserve water, Jerry Brown said in his state of the state address Friday. Here's our pocket water-saving guide:

- · Group shower parties
- · Wash your clothes at the Strawberry Hill waterfall in Stow
- · Switch from drinking Hetch Hetchy tap to Hangar One Vodka (Straight shots, not iced cock-
- · Screw it, tech will save us
- · Did we mention group shower parties?

#### **HOMELESS BILL OF RIGHTS**

The Western Regional Advocacy Project and other organizations that work with the homeless used Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend to launch campaigns for a Homeless Bill of Rights in both California and Oregon, targeting laws that ban sitting or sleeping in public, including a slew of such laws in San Francisco in recent years. Pledging peaceful resistance, the groups quoted MLK as their inspiration: "We will not obey unjust laws or submit to unjust practices. We will do this peacefully, openly, cheerfully because our aim is to persuade."

#### **MEET-CUTE, LIVE**

Want to see you and your funny Valentine's meet-cute (or meet-awkward, meet-accidentally, meet-and-



songs." Past picks have included a love connection sparked by the question "Can you see if I have head lice?", so your story best be juicy, offbeat, dramatic, hilarious, or totally bizarre. Singles and couples who met boringly are, of course, welcome to check out the show (Feb. 14 at the Marines' Memorial Theatre) no matter what.





#### **GARY EDSON** ARLINGTON. 1938-2014

Underground commix hero Gary Arlington — who opened the nation's first comic bookstore, San Francisco Comic Book Company. in 1968 in the Mission — passed away at age 75. A true character who galvanized the hotbed local scene (which included R. Crumb Art Spiegelman, Jay Kinney, and Trina Robbins). Arlington released essential anthology series San Francisco Comics in the 1980s - and had released a book of his colorful artwork, "I Am Not of This Planet" (Last Gasp Press) in 2012. Said Spiegelman, "San Francisco was the capitol of comix culture in the '60s and early '70s; and Gary Arlington's hole-in-thewall shop was, for me, the capitol of San Francisco," I PHOTO BY GABRIFI A HASBUN

#### LAST CHANCE LUCAS

After being soundly rejected by the Presidio Trust last year, the final round of project proposals for the Crissy Field Presidio site are in, and boy do they sure look... almost exactly the same as the last round. OK, Star Wars creator George Lucas' abysmal, mall-like suburban Spanish Revival museum is uh, smaller. That counts, right?

#### **TORCHING** AN EVICTION **STRAW MAN**

San Francisco Magazine may have hit a new low in its regular pro-landlord apologia when its Editor Jon Steinberg tweeted "We're calling BS on SF's eviction crisis" on Jan. 20, linking to an article about the Ellis Act. It cherry-picks data showing 117 Ellis evictions for the year leading up to last February, ignoring data on the more recent uptick, on forced buyouts that use Ellis as leverage, and other aspects of the eviction and displacement crisis. And it never even uses the words "rent control," which Ellis was designed to subvert, creating a cumulative erosion of the city's affordable rental stock that began during the last dot-com boom. Luckily, that straw man article got torched by the online flame war that followed.

#### **POLITICAL ALERTS**

#### WEDNESDAY 22

#### HOUSING FORUM AT A HISTORIC LOCATION

I-Hotel Manilatown Center, 868 Kearny, SF, 630pm, free, Join Sup. David Campos and others for a community forum on the housing affordability crisis in San Francisco at the Manilatown Center, the site of the historic International Hotel housing battle. Other panelists will include Gen Fujioka of the Chinatown Community Development Center; Lisa Gray Garcia aka Tiny, POOR Magazine and Angelica Cabande of the South of Market Community Action Network. The evening will also mark the debut of the "I-Hotel Anti-eviction, anti-gentrification Hit Squad" spoken word group.

#### COMMUNITY FORUM ON

SURVEILLANCE IN OAKLAND
Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce boardroom, 475 14th St., Oakl. www.lwvoakland.org. 6pm-7:30pm, free. The League of Women Voters of Oakland plans to host this discussion about Oakland surveillance. How does a city like Oakland respond to residents' demands for more effective crime prevention and reduction while protecting everyone's civil liberties? How will the Domain Awareness Center impact Oakland? How much surveillance is enough — or too much — to enhance our law enforcement capabilities? Bring your ideas and a friend to discuss these important issues with knowledgeable resource people and fellow Oaklanders.

#### TUESDAY 28

#### ECONOMIC STRATEGIES FOR JAPANTOWN'S CULTURAL PRESERVATION

SPUR Urban Center, 654 Mission, SF. www.spur.org/events.12:30pm, \$10 non-member fee. This meeting is intended to help promote new strategies in improving and preserving the economic and cultural heritage of Japantown. The event will include speakers Bob Hamaguchi and Karen Kai of the Organizing Committee, Diana Ponce de Leon of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, as well as Shelley Caltagirone and Steve Werthelm from the San Francisco Planning Department. Show your support and help guide the future of this historic neighborhood, while remembering its past.

#### **WEDNESDAY 29**

#### SPAGHETTI DINNER AND A FIGHT FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE AND ANTI CAPITALISM

Unitarian Universalist Center, 1187 Franklin, SF. www.sf99percent.org. 6-9pm, \$20 requested donation. The San Francisco 99% dinner will feature a hearty meal plus a program featuring Jerry Mander. author of The Capitalist Papers: Fatal Flaws of an Obsolete System, political satirist Will Durst, poetry from Revolutionary Poets Brigade, and recognition of local activists. No one turned away for lack of funds. Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalists for Peace-San

#### **OBAMA SPIES NO MORE?**

Well, not really. Friday Jan. 17, President Barack Obama put on his best "gee whiz, I'm concerned" pouty face and announced lots of changes to

the NSA's massive spy-on-everybody program: moving metadata to a third party, increasing court requirements, purging information on US citizens. and requiring high level permission to spy on foreign powers, to name a few. Will the changes be enough to make Americans feel secure again? You don't need to have the all seeing powers of Edward Snowden to know

> GETTY IMAGES РНОТО ВУ MARK WILSON

that's likely a no.



#### **LOOKING AT 'LOOKING'**

Much-hyped gay-themed HBO series **Looking**, set in San Francisco and following a trio of hip, scruffy men (a naïve videogame designer, an artist who moves to Oakland, and a waiter experiencing the glimmers of a midlife crisis) debuted on Sunday, Jan. 19. SF glows in the half-hour show, written by former resident Michael Lannan, but the play-it-too-safe plotting has disappointed some viewers hoping for something more reflective of the Bay Area's vibrant queer culture. Still, we're looking forward to seeing where Looking leads.



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Wilbur Storey, statement of the aims of the Chicago Times, 1861

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#### POW! record release show at Makeout Room

Celebrating the release of their new album Hi-Tech Boom, POW! will rock the stage this Thursday at the Makeout Room. Epic press release/gentrification rant from ex-Mission resident and Thee Oh Sees frontman John Dwyer notwithstanding, we were quite impressed with POW!'s performance at the last Bay Guardian + WillCall Hellraisers Ball. Expect big things from these folks in 2014. Also performing at this early show are Mane and Warm White. Cover is only eight bucks.

Thursday, January 23 at 8pm @ Makeout Room, 3225 22nd St., SF





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# Nickels and dimes ... or transit for our times?

BY JASON HENDERSON

**STREET FIGHT** Much has been written about the so-called "Google buses" and San Francisco's latest round of gentrification. It's a horrible mess and the city's trifling \$1 charge per bus stop will do little to address the broader structural problem that these buses lay bare.

Ordinary people cannot ride them, nor do the people who clean and cook for the tech world. Like tour buses, they are clunky and inappropriate for many neighborhood streets. While they do substitute for some car trips, an ad hoc private transit system does not reflect the kind of thoughtful regional planning needed to truly reduce car use in the Bay Area.

But the controversy over the private commuter buses does show that there is great potential for a public regional express bus system. Consider that in 1980, 9 percent of commuters in San Francisco left the city every day to go to work. In 2010, outbound commuters approached 25 percent. Owing to regional political fragmentation, Muni cannot provide intercounty service and thus is not the travel mode of choice for many of these commuters. And although Caltrain and BART offer some regional service, the sprawling locations of suburban firms often make regional rail impractical or at the very least time-consuming owing to unavoidable multiple transfers to local buses.

So in noteworthy ways, the rise of private transit is an immediate reaction to poor regional transit connections. Yet rather than sidestepping failed regional planning by encouraging an inequitable, twotiered, private system, we need to expand and regionalize the existing public bus systems. San Francisco's mayor and Board of Supervisors have seats at the table of regional planning and ought to use the controversy over private buses as an opportunity to kickstart the implementation of a regional public bus system accessible to all.

For example, something like AC Transit's Transbay routes should be extended through San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, perhaps operated by BART or Caltrain as part of the next iteration of Plan Bay Area. This network would use reallocated

express lanes on 101 and I-280 and use transit priority lanes on arterials like 19th Avenue in San Francisco and El Camino Real in San Mateo. Regional property assessments on the corporations and developers, in part already possible within the existing BART district (one should be created for Caltrain), could be used to fund such a system. Congestion charging on 101 and I-280 should also be deployed and those funds used for electrifying Caltrain and developing the parallel and complementary regional bus system.

Of course there will be opposition to a regional public bus system as there already is to progressive regional planning. Transitconnected, walkable communities in the South Bay, for example, have been made all but illegal by decades of conservative middle and upper class, anti-density, anti-tax homeowners in suburban localities. As recently as last year, this Tea Partystyle conservative politics dampened Plan Bay Area, resulting in a weak regional housing plan with an underfunded and lackluster transit vision. This conservative approach stifles our collective sense of what is possible and the fear-mongering has rendered regional planners virtually impotent. Yet it can and must be overcome.

Some progressives may find it convenient (and in some cases justifiable) to target tech workers right now, but they could also direct energy into shaping the next round of Plan Bay Area. Remember that Plan Bay Area is a living document, a work in progress. The current version of the plan, weak on transit funding, has been subdued by a loud, irrational mob of Tea Party cranks bent on sabotaging anything that hints of progressive ideas. Plan Bay Area is also stifled by a regional business class that wants to keep the status quo and that is comfortable with the neoliberal model of private transit.

So while a smattering of dedicated and hard-working progressive transit activists showed up and attempted to shape Plan Bay Area last year, in the coming years the plan needs a broader progressive movement — including transit, housing, social justice, and environmental activists - to demand a more visionary regional trans-









by TOM TOMORROW

WELL, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE WORKING ON SOMETHING IMPORTANT! CARRY ON! I'M SURE I DON'T

NEED TO KNOW THE DETAILS!

OF MICRO-MANAGER!

NOT, SIR!

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SOME SORT



JUST IN CASE ANYBODY ASKS, I'M DEFINITELY NOT A VINDICTIVE BULLY SEETHING WITH BARELY CONTAINED RAGE! POLITICIANS WHO CROSS ME HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!



MY NOSE! WELL, LIVE AND LET LIVE, THAT'S WHAT I SAY! I'M

SURE THE LITTLE FELLOW WILL BE

ON HIS WAY SOON ENOUGH -- UN-

BECAUSE THAT'S JUST THE PEACE-

portation plan that connects all of the Bay Area. I am hopeful that this would not only steer regional planning in a progressive direction, but many of the tech workers who are now on the private buses would

#### THE POLITICS OF **SUNDAY PARKING**

gladly join in the cause.

Speaking of hopeful, last month the SFMTA reported that Sunday metering, implemented last January, is a resounding success. Switchingon the meters doubled parking availability on Sundays, which is invariably what small businesses, most of which are open on Sunday, want to see.

Sunday meters increased the number of cars using city-owned garages and decreased the time cars circled in search of parking from an average of four minutes to two de-cluttering streets in commercial districts. While this might seem like a boon to drivers, it also means less pollution, safer conditions for pedestrians and cyclists, less delay for Muni, and a much needed enhancement of revenue for operating public transit.

So it is mystifying that such success would be ignored by Mayor Ed Lee, who instead has proposed to discontinue Sunday metering. This is doubly confusing because, based on existing travel behavior to many commercial districts, 25 percent of people arrived by driving, while 31 percent took transit and 25 percent walked. So what the mayor is effectively saying to the pedestrian and transit-using majority is you matter little. What does matter is the few whining motorists who called him to complain about being "nickel and dimed."

The mayor talks a good game when saying he is truly concerned about pedestrian and cyclist safety, and insisting that he wants to fix Muni. But gutting a reliable source of operating funds and pandering to car drivers who will dangerously circle for parking is inconsistent.

Lee says money isn't an issue because his proposed General Obligation bond (which must be approved by voters) will patch the lost revenue from Sunday metering. But the GO bond will incur further debt and only fund existing capital needs, while parking meters provide a debt-free steady revenue stream for Muni. It's also slightly misleading because the bond would not cover Muni operations, while revenue from Sunday metering does pay for operations.

VERY, VERY SAD!

The mayor's pandering also put the SFMTA Board of Directors, which has been working out parking management and Muni finance, on the spot. Ultimately it has to vote to preserve or scrap Sunday metering in the coming months. Now the directors have to decide if they support transit-first or the mayor's pandering.

Unfortunately, when it comes to parking policy, the way that the Board of Supervisors has behaved lately suggests it will either jump on the mayor's bandwagon and pander to motorists or cower in silence as good public policy is trashed. Not a good situation at City Hall, where transit riders seem to be routinely thrown under the bus by the political establishment. sfbG

Street Fight is a monthly column by Jason Henderson, an urban geography professor at San Francisco State University.

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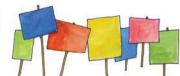




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# PROTECT PEDESTRIANS

More than 50 public commenters spoke at the Jan. 16 joint Police Commission and Board of Supervisors committee meeting, and all sounded one message loud and clear: Drivers can maim and kill pedestrians with near impunity in San Francisco, and that must end.

"I'm here very simply to urge you to end the carnage on our streets," said Natalie Burdick of the nonprofit Walk SF.

Pedestrian deaths reached a high last year, with 21 killed in traffic collisions. Sup. Eric Mar criticized Mayor Ed Lee's Pedestrian Strategy, which has a funding gap of \$5-18 million. But SFPD's failure to cite motorists was the main criticism.

"The fact is these statistics have been consistent that twothirds of pedestrian accidents are the fault of the driver," Sup. Scott Wiener said. (Joe Fitzgerald)

### STATE OF THE CITY: SPIN OVER SUBSTANCE

It was maddening to watch Mayor Ed Lee deliver his annual State of the City address on Jan. 17. This was pure politics, from the staged backdrop of housing construction at Hunters Point Shipyard to the use of "regular people" props to the slate of vague and contradictory promises he made.

"This place, the shipyard, links our proud past to an even more promising future," was how Lee began his hour-plus, invite-only address.

Later, he touted the housing construction being done there by Lennar Urban as emblematic of both his promise to bring 30,000 new housing units online by 2020 — the cornerstone to what he called his "affordability agenda" — and the opposition to unfettered development that he is pledging to overcome.

"A great example is the place we're standing right now. This took us too long," Lee said after decrying the "easy slogans and scapegoating" by progressive activists who place demands on developers.

But that implication was bullshit. As we've reported, progressive and community activists have long encouraged Lennar Urban (which has a close relationship to Lee) to speed up development on this public land that it was given almost a decade ago, particularly the long-promised affordable housing, rather than waiting for the real estate

market to heat up.

**H@#PENED** 

1.15-1.21.2014

That was just one of many examples of misleading and unsupported claims in the speech.

For example, Lee called for greater investments in the public transit system while acknowledging

that his proposal to ask voters this November to increase the vehicle license fee isn't polling well. And yet even before that vote takes place, Lee wants to extend free Muni for youth and repeal the policy of charging for parking meters on Sundays without explaining how he'll pay for that \$10 million per year proposal.

Lee also glossed over the fact that he hasn't provided funding for the SFMTA's severely underfunded bicycle or pedestrian safety programs, yet he still said, "I support the goals of Vision Zero to eliminate traffic deaths in our city."

Again, nice sentiment, but one disconnected from how he's choosing to use city resources. And if Lee can somehow achieve his huge new housing development push, Muni and other critical infrastructure will only be pushed to the breaking point faster.

Even with his call to increase the city's minimum wage — something that "will lift thousands of people out of poverty" — he shied away from his previous suggestion that \$15 per hour would be appropriate

and said that he needed to consult with the business community first: "We'll seek consensus around a significant minimum wage increase."

But Mayor Lee wants you to focus on his words more than his actions, including his identification with renters who "worry that speculators looking to make a buck in a hot market will force them out."

Yet there's little in his agenda to protect those vulnerable renters, except for his vague promise to try to do so, and to go lobby in Sacramento for reforms to the Ellis Act.

Lee also noted the "bone dry winter" we're having and how, "It reminds us that the threat of climate change is real." Yet none of the programs he mentions for addressing that challenge would be as effective at reducing greenhouse gas emissions as the CleanPowerSF program that Lee and his appointees are blocking, while offering no other plan for building renewable energy capacity.

Far from trying to beef up local public sector resources that vulnerable populations increasingly need, Lee said, "Affordability is also about having a city government taxpayers can afford." (Steven T. Jones)

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# **Manhattanization revisited**

Is more, taller, and denser housing the answer to SF's affordability crisis?

BY JOE FITZGERALD RODRIGUEZ

joe@sfbg.com

**NEWS** The housing crisis is spurring pro-development arguments that threaten to hasten the "Manhattanization of San Francisco," a buzzphrase from another era that led to local controls on high-rise development.

The city is getting richer and less diverse, and the unaddressed displacement of longtime residents has fueled populist outrage. Now, politicians are finally getting the message, but some are offering solutions that may reopen old civic wounds.

They say that the answer to the housing affordability crisis is to build massive amounts of new housing, and to build it higher and more densely than city codes and processes currently allow.

Sup. Scott Wiener wrote a scathing indictment of the city's alleged aversion to housing production in the San Francisco Chronicle on Jan. 13, slamming a planning process that he says slows necessary construction.

"This disconnect — saying that we need more housing while arbitrarily finding reasons to kill or water down projects that provide that housing — is having profound effects on our city and its beautiful diversity, economic and otherwise," Wiener wrote.

Though he mentioned affordable housing, the need to build all kinds of housing was the crux of his argument. It's the same kind of developer-friendly rhetoric that whips people into a frenzy with faux common sense:

build more, and the market will take care of everyone.

But there are flaws to that simplistic argument. Housing advocates (and Guardian editorials) have long argued that market rate units — the median price of which just surpassed \$1 million — don't trickle down to maintain the city's economic diversity. More supply may help, but with insatiable demand for housing here, it won't help much with affordability for the working class.

The next day, Wiener introduced legislation to loosen density requirements when developers build below-market-rate housing units on site, creating an incentive to build more of the units that affordable housing advocates say are most valuable.

"Long term, I'm concerned about young persons that can come here," he told the Guardian. "It's not just about building more housing."

Pushing a pro-development agenda while playing lip service to an affordable housing push is all the rage in San Francisco nowadays, with Mayor Ed Lee calling for building 30,000 new housing units by 2020, supporting the rapid growth calls by SPUR, Housing Action Coalition, and other pro-growth groups.

But Peter Cohen, co-director of the Council of Community Housing Organizations, says supply and demand logic doesn't apply to the San Francisco housing market for a number of reasons.

He pointed to a paper by CCHO cohort Calvin Welch, who teaches a class on the politics of housing development at USF and SFSU. Welch cites data from the City Controller's Office showing that when San Francisco

increases supply, the market responds by raising the average housing price. Contrary to all the supply and demand claims, when we produce more, things get more expensive.

Why?

"In classic economic theory prices are set by supply and demand only when the market is 'competitive' when neither consumers nor suppliers have the 'market power' to set the price by themselves," Welch wrote. "Clearly, that is not the case in San Francisco."

"There is no 'free land' in San Francisco," he wrote. "The owners have total 'market power' over its price."

But that's the kind of complex argument has a tough time penetrating the public consciousness. The idea isn't as catchy as "supply and demand."

"I think frankly this whole thing about build, build, build — it's an easy answer to something that's complex," Cohen told us. "It resonates. It sounds like the easy path to sound like you know what you're talking about."

That simplistic thinking is dangerous, though, because San Francisco is quickly becoming Manhattanized.

Since 2002, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg rezoned over 37 percent of New York City, according to The New York Times, causing the construction frenzy many are seeking for SF.

Bloomberg added 40,000 buildings in his time as mayor, but that boom had mixed results. It arguably

hastened the Big Apple's gentrification, especially in Manhattan, one of the few US cities denser than San Francisco.

From 2000 to 2010.

Manhattan's ranks of white people swelled by 58,000. During the same period, the wealthy home of Wall Street lost 29,000 African Americans and 14,000 Latinos. More alarming is the income disparity there.

From 1990 to 2010, the city that never sleeps increasingly became a city of have and have-nots. Census maps showed that while 1990 Manhattan had economic diversity, now the median income hovers over \$75,000 for most blocks of that famous borough.

Articles from the Times and NYC-based housing advocacy organizations frequently describe Manhattan as a haven of wealthy white yuppies. Sound familiar?

San Francisco is quickly following suit. The same census maps that show the swell of wealth in Manhattan show a swell of wealthy folk in San Francisco.

BMR housing set-asides help, and Mayor Lee has promised to ramp up BMR production, calling for about 10,000 units by the year 2020. But any serious increase in housing production carries its own cost in a city where public transit and other vital infrastructure are already underfunded and would need serious new investments.

In his Jan. 17 State of the City speech, Mayor Lee warned against demonizing the tech industry or with pitting one group against another. "San Francisco changes us more than any group of newcomers will change San Francisco," he said to the invite-only crowd.

"Manhattanization" is not just a buzz term or a scare tactic: It's representative of a specific set of zoning and construction policies that many San Franciscans are now advocating for, which will change the demographics and politics of this city, whether we like it or not. SFBG



Housing activists, politicians push parallel reform agendas

BY REBECCA BOWE

rebecca@sfbg.com

**NEWS** Benito Santiago, 63, was born and raised in San Francisco. But now that he's received an eviction notice from the apartment he's lived in since 1977, he isn't sure what the future holds.

"This is roots for me," Santiago told us. "I have more affinity for San Francisco than the Philippines," his family's place of origin.

He works part-time with disabled youth enrolled in San Francisco public schools. "The idea that I built a rapport with these students here ... to be put in a position where I wouldn't be able to work with them, I'm a little saddened and depressed by it," he said. "If I'm homeless, I can't be taking care of these kids. I mean — it's a worst-case scenario."

He's been exploring alternative housing options, and trying to stay positive. He says he's even trying to "change the rate of vibration" of the real estate speculators seeking to oust him as part of his pre-dawn meditation and ritualistic movement practice, a routine he developed to mitigate the chronic pain he dealt with after being hit by an automobile when he was crossing the street in 1980.

"Hopefully, they can have some compassion," he said.

Santiago is hoping to get a temporary extension to stave off his eviction, and he's been looking into publicly subsidized below-market rate apartments. But rent for even the most affordable of those places would eat up 75 percent of his monthly income, he said. Unless he can find an affordable arrangement somewhere, he might end up having to leave the city.

#### **GROWING MOVEMENT**

Santiago has been a part of a growing movement underway in San Francisco to reform the Ellis Act and introduce meaningful legislation at the local level to protect the city's renters.

In recent weeks, the San Francisco Anti Displacement Coalition, made up of a wide range of organizations including the San Francisco Tenants Union, has hosted a series of neighborhood tenant conventions to solicit ideas that will be boiled down at a citywide tenants' gathering scheduled for Feb. 8. At that meeting, organizers plan to hash out a strategy and possibly solicit ideas for a ballot initiative.

The tenant conventions are happening on a parallel track with efforts to reform the Ellis Act, which allows landlords to remove apartments from the rental market and evict tenants.

"Our goal is to ban the use of the Ellis Act in certain circumstances," explained Dean Preston of Tenants Together, a nonprofit focused on strengthening the rights of renters.

"More than half of Ellis Acts are performed by people who bought the properties within the past six months," he told us. "Their whole purpose is to buy it and kick everyone out. It was supposed to be for long-term landlords to get out of the business" of being landlords, he added. Instead, "it's being completely abused."

Sen. Mark Leno is working with Mayor Ed Lee on a response that would seek to lessen the impact the Ellis Act has had in San Francisco. Meanwhile, Assemblymember Tom Ammiano is spearheading a separate effort

"At this time, he's not really ready to say which avenue he's taking" in terms of a legislative strategy, said Carlos Alcalá, Ammiano's communications director. "Because that can rule out that avenue."

Preston said he's been through waves of evictions before, but the organizing now taking place has been especially effective at drawing attention to the issue. Oftentimes, "the speculators are not from within the city or even within the state," he pointed out. "That has fueled a lot of activism and courage."

For Santiago, the organizing has given him heart during a difficult time. "I'm hearing a lot of sad stories," he said. "and I am not alone." SFEG

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# GOOD TECH

# **Positive** starts

Toward a more holistic integration of technology into Bay Area life

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ike Tabasco sauce, Lady Gaga, and the color teal, technology in itself is neither good nor bad — it's all in how you use it. (Indeed, you could argue that those first three examples are technological feats in their own right: Just don't use too much, please!) And while battles rightly rage about how the Bay Area's tech industry is reweaving our social fabric, creating and applying technology is an art in itself, albeit one that can have huge economic and political impact.

It can be difficult to see past the whizbang gizmos, marketing dazzle, and glowing dollar signs of how technology is normally presented to us. But in this issue we wanted to take a deeper look at some of the ways technology is impacting or enhancing Bay Area life, and highlight some of its possibilities in addressing some of the city's real problems (no, not parking or hailing a cab). For all the talk about sharing economies and communal interaction, there's still a huge gulf between what's considered "innovation" and what actually offers a path toward civic solutions.

Important questions still hang in the air (beyond the environmental and labor impacts of manufacturing such technologies): How can innovation be better applied to help city infrastructure and social services? How can we integrate startup energy into city policy-making and government transparency? Can the effects of "disruption" be assessed using other indicators beyond market value? In what ways can we ameliorate the knee-jerk resistance to innovation from all sides when it comes to addressing the explosion of homelessness, hunger, and child poverty in the Bay Area? Can we develop new "inputs" or ways of including all Bay Area voices in the conversation about how technology is transforming the way we live?

And why can't we Kickstart Muni, anyway?

Lately, there's been some movement toward addressing some of these concerns, especially when it comes to art and culture. The huge, forthcoming 5M project on Mission plans to not only house Yahoo, but also Intersection for the Arts and SF Made, explicitly integrating local arts and businesses into the startup incubator template. A recent forum hosted by music app WillCall on how tech can better support the local music and nightlife industry packed the Public Works nightclub. Proposals to help teach more coding in schools and make government more transparent are gaining steam.

Of course, it's always wise to maintain a healthy skepticism about the latest shiny thing, and to realize the limits of technology — often it can't even clean up its own mess and especially the people behind it. But it's also important to keep pushing the conversation about technology's role in civic engagement forward in positive, thought-provoking, even spicy new directions. sfbg

# By the people

Government with tech has possibilities and pitfalls

BY REBECCA BOWE

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agrowing number of people seem to be convinced that "civic innovation" is sexy.

Tech-oriented events at San Francisco City Hall, like hackathons for improving government services, have become increasingly common. App developers are gaga over the idea of revolutionizing government through software, and the concept is gaining momentum.

To borrow an analogy referenced in an essay by tech publisher Tim O'Reilly, some software purveyors are moving away from the idea of government as a vending machine: "When we don't get what we expect, our 'participation' is limited to protest - essentially, shaking the vending machine."

Instead, they're latching onto the idea of government as an open platform that citizens can tinker with.

That's exciting. Can it lead to a government that is more responsive to the people, as enthusiasts predict? Can we really hack away the ineffective and irresponsive parts of the public sector?

Or is some of this just hype and libertarian idealism from a cash-drenched tech sector seeking business opportunities and greater political influence?

#### **HACK THE LAW**

Sup. Mark Farrell recently proposed doing away with an outmoded and widely disregarded law disallowing bicycle storage in garages. The legislative tweak matters because it was spurred by feedback submitted through a new website, SanFranciscoCode.org.

Operated by a private nonprofit organization called the OpenGov Foundation, the website presents an interactive, online version of the city's municipal code with an open platform where anyone can easily comb through the thicket of city laws and leave comments on specific sections, using the software as a magnifying glass.

Farrell touted the website launched in partnership with Mayor Ed Lee's Office of Civic Innovation last September — as a tool that could spur "a more transparent and accountable city government."

"I see this leading to better

"ACQUIRING **PREEMPTIVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IS** THE BEST WAY TO **ENSURE THAT WE** HAVE A SAY IN THE MAKING OF OUR **FUTURE.**" CATARINA MOTA. **CO-FOUNDER OF OPENMATERIALS.ORG** 



engagement," said Jess Montejano, Farrell's legislative aide. Seamus Kraft, executive director of the OpenGov Foundation, has been compiling all the comments submitted via SanFranciscoCode.org, and recently sent a memo with all user feedback to each member of the Board of Supervisors.

"Our mission is to put as much public information into the public's hands as possible," Kraft said, "so that people can access their laws the way they deserve in 2013."

The idea that a law would be changed instantly based on public comments is a new take on an old concept, with shades of being enamored by that shiny new thing. After all, many supervisors have a habit of turning their backs, or very obviously zoning out, during public comment sessions at weekly board meetings.

Yet anyone with an Internet connection can run with this new portal for citizen engagement. How about a reinvigorated response to San Francisco's Sit/Lie Ordinance? A torrent of online commentary about the public nudity ban? Not everyone has the same idea about what it means to fix a broken law.

In some respects, City Hall appears to be lending itself out as a laboratory in which to test the wide-ranging theories of civic innovators. Mayor Lee has greeted the technology sector with arms wide open, and empowered the Office of Civic Innovation to foster tech-fueled government fine-tuning.

With the rise of amply funded organizations such as Code for America, droves of programmers stand at the ready, eager to chip in and do their part to help transport the public sector out of the analog ages.

A recent brigade of Code for America fellows partnered with the city's Department Health and Human Services to create an app that automatically notifies food stamp recipients via text when they are about to be automatically dis-enrolled. The idea is to give recipients advance notice so they can take steps to renew their enrollment.

Other initiatives, such as the Department of Public Health's release of an open data set to reveal housing inspection records, can arm citizens with useful knowledge like empowering apartment hunters to spot a slumlord from a mile away.

The use of tech for transparency holds potential: What if each and every public record — down to every last email, calendar appointment, or police report — were

instantly uploaded to a publicly accessible database, easy to locate, and fully searchable? Would that be a check against corruption?

Ron Bouganim, a San Franciscobased venture capitalist and mentor to the very Code for America teams industriously improving city government through technology, recently filed paperwork with the Securities and Exchange Commission to create GovTech. It's a new kind of venture capital fund, specifically devoted to fostering companies looking to find their way in the "civic innovation" sector.

Bouganim laid out the dynamics driving the civic innovation trend: First, "2008-2009 was like a nuclear bomb," he explained. "The financial crisis was a cataclysmic event. The money is not coming back, ever."

#### THE NEW NORMAL?

This new normal, characterized by dramatically depleted public-sector finances, has helped make government more open to working with startups instead of trusted brands like IBM, Bouganim said, since startups can help government "do more with less."

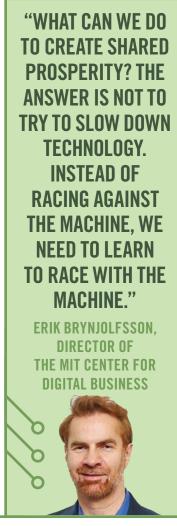
Bouganim also said adoption of cloud computing has changed the game. Whereas governments were initially hesitant to move their data to the cloud, the recent migration has made it possible for companies seeking government contracts to price below the "procurement threshold," a price point that triggers a long public approval process before a purchase can go through. Now that technology has helped software developers slice through red tape, startups are flooding in, eager to land public sector contracts.

The city's Entrepreneurship in Residence webpage (entrepreneur. sfgov.org), which markets a program rolled out by the Office of Civic Innovation, says it all. Sporting a gleaming picture of San Francisco City Hall, it bears the caption: "Develop products & services for the \$142 billion public sector market."

Bouganim wasn't willing to say much in the way of GovTech's plans, but he mentioned that his accelerator provides mentorship for startups that are paired with government agencies, and hinted that his initial investments would lead to "a dramatic impact on government savings."

An underlying goal of the whole civic innovation movement, Bouganim added, "is to fundamentally change this concept that government is over there, and I am over here. We the people are the govern-

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ment, we've just lost touch with it."

Bouganim responded to the Guardian's call within 15 minutes, mentioning he was in London. "I wanted to get back to you so you didn't think I was ignoring you," he said, "because that would be awful."

But the well-compensated public servants at the Mayor's Office of Civic Innovation evidently had no such compunction. The Bay Guardian placed multiple calls to that office for this story, only to be met with radio silence.

And that's a quandary. One cannot trumpet lofty goals of citizen engagement while habitually walling off government critics, and still expect to be taken seriously. And therein lies the rub with civic innovation: Even if technology is neutral, politics will never be so. sfbg

# **Death and Facebook**

Social media's important role during tragedies BY STEVEN T. JONES

steve@sfbg.com

y appreciation for Facebook had been waning in recent years. Although I still use it almost every day — mostly as a storehouse for digital photos and events listings or as a procrastination tool — I was becoming turned off by its increasing commercialization and ubiquity.

But last month, my eyes were opened to the important role that social media sites can play in our lives, particularly Facebook, because of how many people are on it: local friends and acquaintances, extended family, people I grew up with or knew in other places I've lived, and friends of my friends and loved ones.

My girlfriend, Rhonda Barzon, suddenly slipped into a coma on the afternoon of Dec. 1, the result of pressure in her brain that had caused a severe headache and nausea, triggering our early morning trip to the hospital. The next day, doctors concluded she was brain dead and we shut off the ventilator the following day.

I'm still in shock over her death, but the support that I and her family received through Facebook has been a huge source of comfort and connection. Our ability to communicate what was happening with Rhonda was made easier and more far-reaching through the use of Facebook, eliminating many of the countless phone calls we would otherwise have had to make during those difficult days.

People were profoundly affected by Rhonda's unexpected death, both people who knew her well and those who just followed our storybook romantic rise from afar, including people from our extended community, her family, and those she knew from previous phases of her life.

As the unfolding news of her condition trickled out in Facebook updates and comments, people were able to look at photos and posts from our charmed eight-month relationship and see just how happy we were. It helped that Rhonda was such a luminous woman with an amazing smile, but I heard again and again from people how truly happy she seemed. And she was, which turned out to be one silver lining in this tragic story, one reinforced by this online record of our life together.

The breadth of the emotional impact of Rhonda's unexpected death and its amplification by Facebook was epitomized a week later by the woman who stopped me on the street in my neighborhood and told me, "I'd really like to give you a hug because I know who you are and I know what happened." CONTINUES ON PAGE 12 >>





### **GOOD TECH**

CONT>

It was a sweet, touching moment that augmented the support that I was getting from my immediate physical community.

I understand and even share the concerns that people have about Facebook and other online realms, which can offer the illusion of community connection while actually feeding our sense of isolation. It can make us more narcissistic and self-absorbed, a concern I even raised with Rhonda a week before she died, asking whether we were posting too many lovey photos of ourselves on Facebook.

Now, I'm just happy that we did. For good or ill, our lives and her death played out in vivid fashion before thousands of people in real time, something that has immortalized this tragedy and the amazing woman at the center of it. And it has given me solace for which I'll always be grateful, from the hundreds of simple statements of support through Facebook comments to long, deeply personal messages privately delivered to me to hugs on the street from random strangers.

Thank you all, and thank you, Facebook. **SFBG** 

# Hey whistle-blowers

We want your leaks!

u, BY REBECCA BOWE rebecca@sfbg.com

The SF Bay Guardian newsroom is tapping some high-tech tools to

continue its journalistic mission.

Working in partnership with a group of technologists who dislike government corruption just as much as we do, we're launching a new web-based system to enable sources to anonymously submit documents directly to our news staff.

The system offers better safeguards for protecting sources' identities than conventional email can offer.

Powered by a software system called SecureDrop, the system is designed to protect the identities of whistleblowers if they wish to share information without fear of retaliation.

If the documents we receive contain newsworthy information that can be independently verified, we'll use it as the basis for our reporting.

Since this is an experiment, we have no idea what will land in our SecureDrop folder — but it creates the potential for us to partner with sources in breaking significant news items.

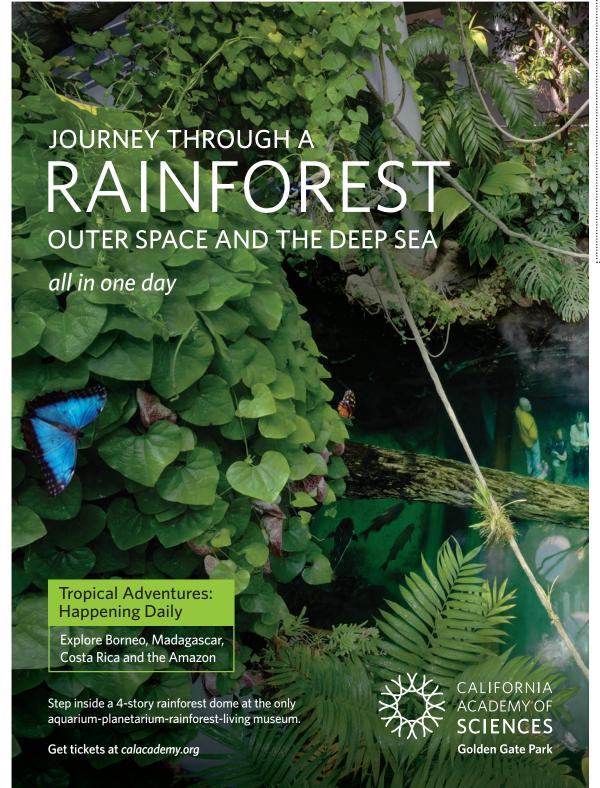
The SecureDrop program originated with the late Aaron Swartz,

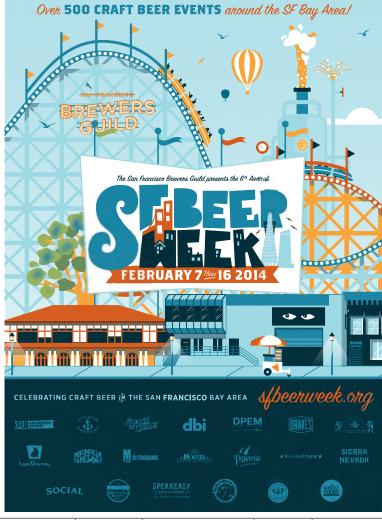
who developed it in collaboration with Wired Editor Kevin Poulson. Swartz was an Internet activist and programmer known for hashing out inventive ways to fight corruption and promote transparency. He's remembered, among other things, for cofounding Reddit, the online news site; and for founding Demand Progress, an online activism group known for its 2012 campaign against the Stop Online Piracy Act.

Now, SecureDrop is managed by the Freedom of the Press Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded in 2012 that is "dedicated to helping support and defend public-interest journalism focused on exposing mismanagement, corruption, and law-breaking in government."

Files submitted to the Guardian through the SecureDrop system will remain encrypted until they are securely downloaded. This means there's no way for a third party to view their contents and trace them back to the sender.

Sources' actual identities will never be revealed, and they'll be identified to our news staff only through randomly generated code names.





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### **GOOD TECH**

Of course, whistleblowers desiring to keep their identities unknown always have the option of putting some documents into an unmarked envelope and dropping it in the mail.

But by submitting documents through SecureDrop, sources will have the ability to send high volumes of information that would be logistically difficult to print out or send. The program also enables sources to communicate with journalists in real time without revealing their actual identities.

Stay tuned. In coming weeks, the Guardian will publish a clipout guide with instructions on how to submit documents to our news staff using SecureDrop. Sending encrypted files to journalists begins with downloading the Tor Browser Bundle, a system that makes online activity invisible to third parties. **SFBG** 

# **Judging** o hackers

Social Good Hackathon wants nerds, Luddites... and even the Guardian

BY JOE FITZGERALD RODRIGUEZ joe@sfbg.com

The Bay Guardian is happy to announce a partnership with BeMyApp, CloudCamp, Hewlett Packard, and Intel in launching a hackathon for societal benefit. I will be one of the judges of their CloudCamp Social Good Hackathon the weekend of Jan. 24.

The hackathon is a contest tasking programmers and designers with creating apps that could

change their city, state, country, or the world. Teams will craft those changes around health, fitness, the environment, and education. The Guardian has always been solutions based, and we hope to work with tech to help solve the problems of San Francisco's rising displacement and inequality together.

Entrance in the hackathon is free, though space is limited. The first and second prizes are \$5,000 and \$4,000, respectively. Hackers will strut their ones and zeroes at Impact Hub San Francisco, which is housed in the bottom floor of the San Francisco Chronicle Building on Fifth and Mission.

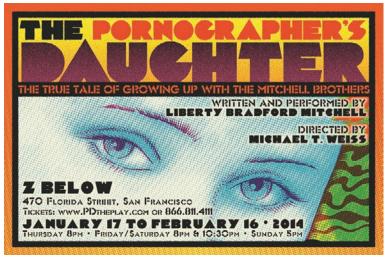
Kalina Machlis, community manager at BeMyApp, said the Guardian was a natural choice to partner with them due to our often critical stance on the tech community: We'd keep them honest. She also hoped it would help build ties with a media community that can be critical of the tech industry.

"It's a good way for you to see there are positive things happening in the tech world," she told us.

And though no one app can solve all of San Francisco's social ills, we hope this can be a first step toward harnessing tech for the good of all the city's residents.

Be advised, you don't necessarily need to be a tech head to join in. Just bring your ideas, Machlis told us. "Our initial idea for beginning the company was to bring together people who don't have technical skills with people who design and code," she said.

We're looking forward to bringing a bit of Guardian fire to a hub of techies who want to change the world. For every Greg Gopman spewing hatred, no doubt there are tech-savvy folk who care about the less fortunate around them. We want to meet those socially conscious hackers. sfbG





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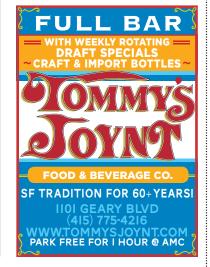
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# FOOD + DRINK





THE (STILL TIDY) SLOPPY BUN FROM BUN MEE

# The basics

BY MARCIA GAGLIARDI

marcia@sfbg.com

TABLEHOPPING Pizza, burgers, banh mi, and brunch...what more do vou need?

#### **BALLIN' ON A BUDGET**

This week features some smaller openings around town, plus new places to go for brunch, and, how charming, they're not all gonna leave you broke. Besides, some of us self-employed types are still reeling from those pesky tax quarterlies that were just due, blergh.

Pizza-man-about-town Jeff Krupman (aka the PizzaHacker, known for his FrankenWeber mobile pizza oven) has pulled it on over and has been softly opening his first brick-and-mortar spot in La Lengua-Bernal, aptly named PizzaHacker (3299 Mission, SF. www.thepizzahacker.com). He's keeping the menu pared down, with pies like a classic margherita, although some have fun names and ingredient combos like the Yo Vinny (with marinated onions, Mama Lil's pickled goat horn

peppers, 4505 hot Italian sausage, tomato sauce, mozzarella), and the Rocket Man (arugula, garlic, mozzarella, farm egg, lemon juice, chili paste).

For now, pizzas are \$15 during the opening weeks — but the pricing may change a bit in the future, just FYI. There's also a killer salad, check it out. The space is pretty bare bones, with seating at picnic tables or the bar. Yay, there's local beer and wine too. It's mostly open Thu-Sun at 5:30pm, but check out the schedule on the website or on Twitter (@pizzahacker) before heading over.

Downtown workers have a couple new options to add to their lunchtime mix, or for post-work dinnertime. It's OK. we know your fridge is empty. First up, Bun Mee (650 Market, SF. www.bunmee.co) has opened a second location, with the same menu as the original location on Fillmore. You can order Vietnamese sandwiches (you have to try the sloppy bun, trust, and get an egg on it!), along with

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### FOOD + DRINK

salads, and other items that are good for eating at your desk, like rice and noodle bowls. And get a coconut sandwich cookie, because hey, you're worth it. Open daily 10:30am-9pm.

There's no denying that the burgers at Super Duper are pretty fricking good — it's all about the double patty action on the Super burger. You now have another location to hit up: The latest location to open is in the Financial District at 98 Mission (www.

superdupersf.com). Hours are Mon-Fri 7am-8pm and Sat-Sun 11am-6pm.

You dig brunch? You're a San Franciscan, of course you do. One new brunch service that was just added to our scene is on Saturdays at St. Vincent (1270 Valencia, SF. www.stvincentsf.com) in the Mission. Come by noon-3pm for an East Coast fave like scrapple with fried eggs, or a new-fangled rye waffle with mixed winter citrus, pecans, hickory syrup, and

sour cream. Also very au courant SF: a variety of toast toppings on country bread, like cultured butter with persimmon jam. Oysters on the half shell, yep. And more wine and tasty beers than you'd know what to do with! Start with some coffee from Bicycle Coffee Co., however. Pace yourself.

Also in the Mission: the folks at Hi Lo (3416 19th St., SF. www.hilobbqsf.com) are serving Sunday brunch (11am-2:30pm), and this menu is not gonna let

you be hungry for long. You'll find some Southern-inspired numbers, like shrimp and grits with andouille sausage and chicken fried steak and eggs, plus classics like a Benedict with housecured ham. Those looking for lighter choices — i.e. people on a January diet - can opt for housesmoked salmon on lavash or fruit with yogurt. Lemon-ricotta pancakes: always a win. There's a selection of brunch cocktails, like a jerked Bloody Mary with pork

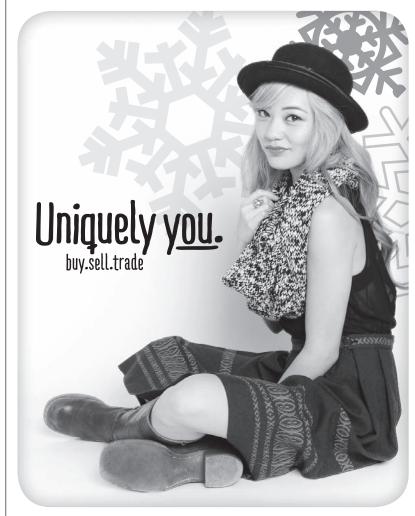
fat-washed rye, Caribbean and house BBQ spice, heirloom tomato, and Youk's hot sauce. Dude. There are also three "hair of the dog" shot specials for \$7 for those who need some healing, stat. Woof, sfbg

Marcia Gagliardi is the founder of the weekly tablehopper e-column; subscribe for more at www.tablehopper.com. Get her app: Tablehopper's Top Late-Night Eats. On Twitter: @tablehopper.











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# JD WILKES AND THE DIRT DAUBERS

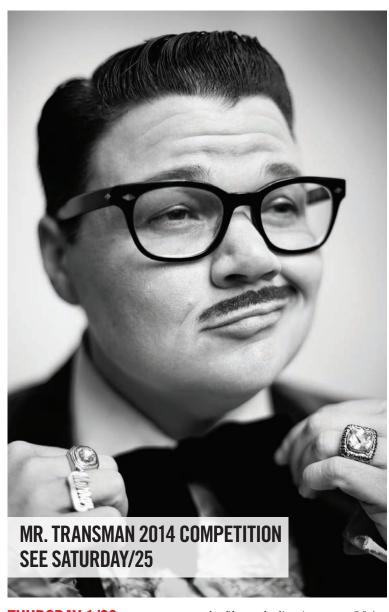
As the wild frontman for The Legendary Shack Shakers, Col. J.D. Wilkes brought together a wide array of blues-infused and swampy sounding rock 'n' roll, earning them the admiration of fans and invitations to tour with noted performers such as Robert Plant. Wilkes — a bonafide



Kentucky colonel, hence his title formed The Dirt Daubers in 2009 with his wife, Jessica, and added guitarist Rod Hamdallah and drummer Preston Corn for the band's most recent album, Wild Moon (Plowboy Records). Produced by iconic punk rocker Cheetah Chrome (The Dead Boys), the album finds them back in the vein of mixing traditional sounds with an infectious rock attitude and approach. (Sean McCourt) 8pm, \$10-\$12 Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell, SF (415) 861-2011 www.rickshawstop.com

#### SWEAT LODGE

Spend a minimal amount of time on the stretch of Mission between El Rio and The Knockout, and you'll probably hear of these lo-fi punks. Not simply since one member is a fixture at the former bar, cooking up Indian tacos and sweet frybread on the back patio. No, it's because Sweat Lodge seems to be a favorite of discerning music aficionados and drunkards alike. The last unprompted recommendation came from a guv who had literally just picked himself off the sidewalk (his back hurt) and said, "That dude's band fucking rocks" as Rocky passed. Perhaps sensing jaded skepticism he added, "and I don't give praise lightly." But I've checked the tumblr and the tapes, and can't disagree. (Ryan Prendiville) With Giggle Party, Nasty Christmas 9pm, \$8 Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th, SF (415) 612-4455 www.bottomofthehill.com



#### THURSDAY 1/23

# NAPOLEON DYNAMITE10TH ANNIVERSARYSCREENING

Flippin' sweet! It's time to polish up your dance moves, sketch out some ligers, and get out the vote for Pedro — and if you have no idea what I'm



talking about, clearly you've never seen the 2004 cult comedy classic *Napoleon Dynamite*. As part of this year's SF Sketchfest, join actors Jon Heder, Jon Gries, and Efren Ramirez for a 10th anniversary screening of the film and a live, in-person Q&A session, where you can ask them anything you ever wanted to know about the oddball movie, or perhaps even life in general...like, "Do the chickens have large talons?" (Sean McCourt)

7pm, \$25 Castro Theatre 429 Castro, SF www.sfsketchfest.com

#### **FRIDAY/1/24**

#### **© DAVE ALVIN**

First displaying his formidable guitar chops as a member of The Blasters in the early 1980s, singer/songwriter Dave Alvin has also played with X and The Knitters, and has gone on to a distinguished solo career, with his most recent record, *Eleven Eleven* (Yep Roc) coming out in 2011. Hailing from the working class town

of Downey, the Grammy Award-winning Alvin absorbed a host of musical influences growing up, and his soulful songwriting exudes the best of that Americana and roots-based music — he comes to the city tonight for a special acoustic show with Nina Gerber and Christy McWilson. (Sean McCourt)

8pm, \$25 Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell, SF (415) 885-0750 www.slimspresents.com

#### **©** DENT MAY

Over three albums, Dent May has been a bit of a indie pop chameleon. Take the fabulous lounge kitsch of *The Good Feeling Music Of Dent May & His Magnificent Ukulele.* Or the drum machine disco revival on *Do Things.* And May's latest, *Warm Blanket*, is predictably unpredictable: see the Bowie styled "Let's Dance"



intro that quickly upshifts into an afrobeat groove on "Let Them Talk." Still, one thing May shares with his label bosses Animal Collective is a shared affinity for Brian Wilson, and it's the biggest referent, with a track like "Corner Piece" sounding like it could have spun off of *Pet Sounds*, and it's the perfect opportunity for May to get increasingly open-hearted and romantic. (Ryan Prendiville) With Chris Cohen, Jack Name

9pm, \$12 Slim's 333 11th St., SF (415) 255-0333 www.slimspresents.com

# FRANCESCA LOMBARDO AT HEART PHOENIX'S HIGHER

Sometimes it feels like watching reruns. The one where the DJs idle behind the decks, doing their best to seem effortlessly cool, making adjustments with a cigarette in hand (and another drooping from their bottom lip). Worse than than that, the occasional amped up excitement, hiding the fact that the webcast probably won't translate 100 percent, and in any

case, the scenester crowd will look bored. Francesca Lombardo's recent Boiler Room run avoided both pitfalls. Centered around her vocals, and orchestrated with strings, Lombardo's music took a middle path through deep house — somewhere between Maya Jane Coles and Nicolas Jaar — confident but with enough of a nervy edge befitting her recent addition to Crosstown Rebels. (Ryan Prendiville)

With Christian Martin, Galen, shOOey, Gravity, Layne Loomis, Ding-Dong, and more

9pm-4am, \$15-20 Public Works 161 Erie, SF (415) 932-0955 www.publicsf.com

#### SATURDAY/25

#### **©** JESSY LANZA

We've seen a major resurgence of UK R&B-circa-'89 over the past few years, but while songstresses like Jessie Ware tackle those Lisa Stansfield-ish stylings with showy emotivity, Canada's Jessy Lanza takes a borderline-shoegazer's approach to her vocals, filtering ambiguous yearnings and half-confessions through delay and echo until they're just another instrument in the mix, as stark and percussive as they are ethereal and melodic. Released on the much-fetishized Hyperdub imprint, and produced/co-written by Junior Boys' Jeremy Greenspan, Lanza's icy, prickly, spacious debut LP, Pull My Hair Back (2013), updates a flashy throwback genre for introverted, LCD-immersed times, in which the people can't quite be trusted to say what they mean, or vice versa. This Saturday's Popscene-curated show marks Lanza's second-ever West Coast appearance, and might elucidate a persona that, similarly to those of labelmates Hype Williams and Laurel Halo, remains well concealed. (Taylor Kaplan) With Running in the Fog 9pm, \$10 Amnesia 853 Valencia, SF

**9** SF MR. TRANSMAN 2014 COMPETITION

(415) 970-0012

www.amnesiathebar.com

Be a part of San Francisco history as the Elbo Room hosts the

16 SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN OPINION NEWS GOOD TECH FOOD + DRINK THE SELECTOR MUSIC ARTS + CULTURE FILM CLASSIFIEDS

JD WILKES AND THE DIRT DAUBERS PHOTO COURTESY OF SHORE FIRE MEDIA; MURRAY HILL PHOTO BY ALLISON MICHAEL ORENSTEIN; NAPOLEON DYNAMITE STILL COURTESY OF SF SKETCHFEST; DENT MAY PHOTO BY AARON BEASLEY: ROBERT DELONG PHOTO BY MILES PETTENGILL; PROJECT AGORA PHOTO BY ANDY MOGG; MIKE MILLS PHOTO BY KYLE JOHNSON; JESSY LANZA PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WINDISH AGENCY; ADAM SAVAGE PHOTO COURTESY OF WOOTSTOCK

#### SATURDAY/25

CONT>>

city's first ever Mr. Transman Competition! Six local FTM transmen of diverse backgrounds will compete in the categories of platform, swimsuit, interview, talent, and evening wear for a chance to be crowned the first Mr. Transman San Francisco. Hosted by Murray Hill, the creator of the first Mr. Transman competition in New York in 2011, this vibrant showcase will be judged by a panel of stars, including Shawna Virago, Michelle Tea, Ashley Fink, and Brontez Purnell. The contestants are James Darling, Mason J, Lynne Breedlove, Loren Mattia, Andrew Onthago, and Dawson Montoya. One of them will receive a huge trophy, a cash prize, and a spread in Original Plumbing magazine! (21+). (Kirstie Haruta)

PROJECT AGORA'S **MOTHER TONGUE** 

8pm, \$15-20

647 Valencia, SF

(415) 552-7788

www.elbo.com

Elbo Room

When Kara Davis was actively dancing, she seemed to be everywhere, performing (superbly) with choreographers as different as Janice Garret, Margaret Jenkins, Robert Moses, and Kathleen Hermesdorf. Then she started to choreograph not solos and duets like most beginners, but (excellent) company pieces of a dozen dancers more. That's before she traveled to the Middle East. Now she is working with an international cast of a visual artist, dancers, and musicians to find a common

language - both

culturally and

artistically — with which to create a piece. The largely improvised Mother Tongue was a hit at the Museum of Performance and Design last fall. It's now back at



the same venue on Friday before traveling a couple of blocks South to the Garage for the Saturday performance. (Rita Felciano) Fri/24: 8pm, \$10-15 Museum of Performance and Design 893B, Folsom, SF (415)255-4800

www.mpdsf.org Sat/25: 7pm and 8:30pm, \$15 The Garage

715 Bryant, SF 715bryant.info

#### SUNDAY/26

#### **⊗** WOOTSTOCK

While nerds have been picked on and made fun of for generations, with the advent of the 21st century computer age and the mainstream success of all man-

ner of tech-related products (and even the acceptance of watching sci-fi movies and reading comic books!) we can now proudly come together for a celebration of our collective inner geek! Join special effects guru/TV

> host Adam Savage from Mythbusters, singers Paul and Storm and author Pat Rothfuss for a night of comedy, music, readings and much more that embrace geek pride. Turn off that re-run of Big Bang Theory, get off the couch, and nerd out! (Sean McCourt)

1pm, \$35 Marines Memorial Theatre 609 Sutter, SF www.sfsketchfest.com

**ROBERT DELONG SEE TUESDAY/28** 

#### **AN EVENING** WITH MIKE MILLS

History, says artist Mike Mills, inspired his three-part Project Los Altos. But the past isn't all that Mills is getting at—our present and future make up history before they happen, and currently, technology is happening. This Sunday at the Roxie, Mills gives a Q&A on the "future" third of his piece, a documentary entitled A Mind Forever Voyaging Through Strange Seas of Thought Alone: Silicon Valley Project (2013). The film interviews children of tech industry workers about



their predictions of the future. It's dark, even spooky, to hear this envisioned world, which has less intelligence and fewer plants and animals, because ultimately, the children's imaginations reflect a world we don't realize we might already be living in. (Kaylen Baker) 7pm, \$10 Roxie Theater 3117 16th St, SF (415) 863-1087 www.roxie.com

#### TUESDAY/28

#### OPEN MIC NIGHT AT **BOTTOM OF THE HILL**

Open mic nights at cafes can be great, but if you're a musician craving more of a real show experience, don't miss Bottom of the Hill's open mic night. For one night only, the popular venue will open its stage to musicians of all genres to play one song — originals and covers both welcome! Worried your setup is too complicated? Fear not! Bottom of the Hill will set you up for a beautiful performance, with the help of sound engineer Dan Foldes and House Drummer Trent. Drum kits are not allowed, but light percussion is fine, and the venue can provide mics, cables, and a keyboard. Sign-ups are first come, first serve, starting at 7pm. Don't miss out! (21+). (Kirstie Haruta) 7pm, Free Bottom of the Hill

1233 17th St. SF (415) 626-4455 www.bottomofthehill.com



#### ROBERT DELONG

How do you gauge the frequently overreaching world of one-man bands, when pushing multitasking to its limit is part of the draw? Seemingly taking compulsive loopster Merrill Garbus' cue (and facepaint), Robert DeLong is a live-sampling and track-layering singer with an alternative pop bent, as likely to switch over to drums as he is to a modified Wii-mote or Sidewinder joystick in his performances. It's an approach that puts him at least in distinctive territory: Neither the minimalist and, despite all the effort, not quite a maximalist, DeLong is more likely to get featured in Wired

than written up and doesn't quite fit into the EDM arena, where going alone is more ordinary. At the moment he seems to be orbiting in a little world of his own. (Ryan With Mystery Skulls, DJ Aaron

on Pitchfork.

Prendiville)

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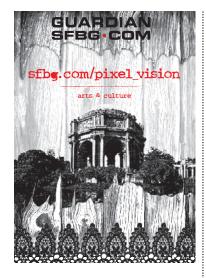
8pm. \$15

628 Divisadero, SF (415) 771-1421 www.theindependentsf.com sfbg

The Guardian listings deadline is two weeks prior to our Wednesday publication date. To submit an item for consideration, please include the title of the event, a brief description of the event, date and time, venue name, street address (listing cross streets only isn't sufficient), city, telephone number readers can call for more — no attachments, please) to listings@

information, telephone number for media, and admission costs. Send information to Listings, the Guardian, 225 Bush, 17th Flr., SF, CA 94105; or email (paste press release into email sfbg.com. Digital photos may be submitted in jpeg format; the image must be at least 240 dpi and four inches by six inches in size. We regret we cannot accept listings over the phone WOOTSTOCK **SEE SUNDAY/26** 

JANUARY 22 - 28, 2014 / SFBG.COM 17 NEWS GOOD TECH FOOD + DRINK THE SELECTOR MUSIC ARTS + CULTURE CLASSIFIEDS





THURSDAY JAN 23 7pm 122/25 Al An acoustic evening with... HE MAINE FRIDAY JAN 24 8:30PM : \$10 . AA

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<u>bottomofthehill.com/tickets.htm</u> BOTTOM OF THE HILL MUSIC 🗬













#### **ERIC ROBERTSON AND DUNCAN WICKEL OF** THE BOSTON BOYS IN THE STUDIO

PHOTO BY STEPHAN HAWK FOR ZOO LABS

BY EMMA SILVERS

esilvers@sfbg.com

LEFT OF THE DIAL When MTV debuted "Video Killed the Radio Star" at 12:01am on Aug. 1, 1981 — the first music video to air on the brand-new, much-buzzed-about network — producers knew exactly what they were doing. Amid all the excitement about the possibilities video technology presented to the music industry, there was an ambivalence, tinged with apprehension from musicians, about what the sea change would mean for artists. The song perfectly captured the current climate, a combination of brave-new-world optimism and flatout fear of the future.

Two decades later, a scrappy little Redwood City-based file-sharing startup called Napster would be ordered shut down in federal court. "It's time for Napster to stand down and build their business the old-fashioned way — they must get permission first," said Hilary Rosen, president of the Recording Industry Association of America, told the New York Times, speaking on behalf of five major record labels that sued the company. And, as everyone knows, that sealed it: Music was never obtained for free on the Internet ever again, all artists were paid fairly for their work, and everyone lived happily ever after.

Funny thing about technological advancement — it only goes one way. The collapse of the record industry over the past decade has given way to a sort of Wild West atmosphere when it comes to the ways musicians, fans, producers, etc. can interact, make art, and do commerce. It has been something of an economic equalizer: Anyone with a Wi-Fi connection can throw his latest dubstep/witchhouse cover of "Under the Sea" up on Soundcloud one night, and wake up to a bevy of fans. But most musicians I know would agree that the availability of free or very cheap streaming and downloading services has made it difficult, if not impossible, to make a living from their work the way they might have 30 years ago.

And yet: There are those who would argue that the tech world has more to offer musicians than it might initially seem. In the spirit of our "good tech" issue, I reached out to some local techies who aren't using their powers for evil.

On the vast playing field of websites and apps that promise to help musicians get their work out into the world — without, ideally, anyone going bankrupt — Bandcamp may have built the most trust among artists, using a straightforward reve-



The good witches of music tech

nue-share model: The company takes 15 percent of sales on digital purchases; 10 percent on merch. Of course, it didn't hurt when Amanda Palmer decided to forego the traditional album-release route in 2010, releasing her ukulele Radiohead covers album solely on Bandcamp, bringing in \$15,000 inside three minutes.

When founder Ethan Diamond launched the site in 2007 — after trying to buy a favorite band's digital album directly from its website and having "every single technical problem that could go wrong, go wrong" — people were saying "music sales are dead," recalls the SF resident, a programmer who previously co-founded the webmail service that would become Yahoo! mail. "Within a vear or two of the business, you could see that wasn't true: Even in the digital era, fans actually want to support the artists they love. Right now fans are giving artists \$2.8 million every month [through Bandcamp]. We have 50,000 unique artists communicating and marketing directly to their fans... our entire goal is to help artists be successful. That's really it."

And no, he doesn't want to name the band whose technical difficulties inspired the company a few years back — band members don't know who they are. And they're not on Bandcamp yet.

At Zoo Labs, a less-than-year-old

nonprofit based out of a recording studio in West Oakland, a handful of heavy hitters from the tech and design worlds asked the question: What happens when you apply a business incubator model – like the well-founded training grounds

that typically nurture

Silicon Valley startups — to a band? The Zoo Labs Residency. a two-week, all-expenses-paid program for musicians, offers practical skill-building workshops, marketing training, mentorship, and studio time to bands who have a vision but hav-

en't yet achieved a widespread reach. "We started talking to musicians about their experiences and how they were managing their careers and accomplishing their projects, and it was really interesting to find that a lot of musicians and producers working in music are having very similar experiences to entrepreneurs in the startup world," says Anna Acquistapeace, a designer who founded the program with Vinitha Watson, an ex-Googler (she opened Google's first satellite office in India) after the two met in California College of the Arts' Design Strategy MBA program. Music producer Dan Lawrence (who — full disclosure — I've known since elementary school, at which time he wanted to be a music producer) brought his working knowledge of the local music industry to the team.

"With all of these changes in the

[music] industry over the last 10 years, musicians have been forced to take way more control over their marketing channels," says Acquistapeace. "They need to get their own fans, they need to bootstrap their own products in a similar to way to what startups do, whether that means funding albums or demos to pitch to a record label, reaching out to the media...they have to become entrepreneurs, out of necessity. From that, the idea of this artists' residency-meets-business-incubator or accelerator was born."

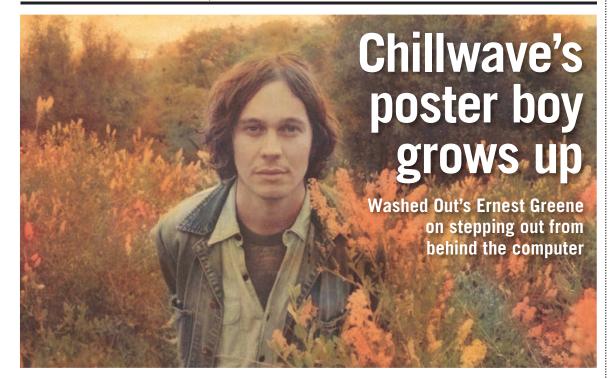
Thus far only one band, an Americana/roots four-piece called the Boston Boys, has completed the residency, participating in a series of workshops and recording sessions tailored specifically to their needs: They took a "sonic branding" class from Oakland producer Jumbo (whose credits include work with Blackalicious, Lyrics Born, and others), learned about music law, met with design professionals and leadership coaches. Meanwhile, recording engineer/producer Damien Lewis recorded the band live in the studio most days in sessions that ran from 2 in the afternoon until 2 in the morning; the two-week period culminates in a live show at the studio.

In total, the program costs about \$20,000 per session to run, with much of it being underwritten by private investors from Silicon Valley who are simply interested in developing new models for the music industry. "If there's one thing that people are passionate across the board, it's music," says Acquistapeace.'"I haven't really seen any other art form that crosses groups the same way."

(The application period for its March residency just closed, but look for new programming to launch in February; the Beat Lab, which will open next month, aims to be a combination recording studio/coworking space for musicians of all kinds: www.zoolabs.org)

And in, er, music/tech news of a much lower-tech variety: Tom Temprano, co-owner of Virgil's Sea **Room** in the Mission, announced this week that the bar, which occupies the space Nap's III left behind (both physically and in our hearts), will be bringing back the grand Nap's tradition of sloppy, gleeful karaoke around a glowing screen. Starting Jan. 23, every Thursday night at 9pm will find Nap himself back at home base MCing the action, with songbooks and harmonicas in tow. Because technology will march forward — video may have killed the radio star — but drunken renditions of Salt 'n' Pepa's "Shoop"? Karaoke, my friends, is forever. sfbg

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#### BY KYLE O'BRIEN arts@sfbg.com

paying attention.

MUSIC It's been an adventurous four years for Ernest Greene. In 2009, the musician now known as Washed Out was producing music in his childhood bedroom, considering law school, and planning his wedding. Perry, Ga., is not widely known for its indie/electronica scene, so Greene posted music to his MySpace page and recorded it on a few cassette tapes for road trips. It was a low-key type of thing — until blogs like Pitchfork started

This is about the time I became a fan. I was a freshman in college, brand-new to San Francisco, and Washed Out sounded like the future. Most mainstream electronic production at the time seemed made for rappers, or was heavily drumand-bass influenced. Washed Out was all '80s influences, hazy and chilled out. "Retro lo-fi," "dreampop," "synth-pop." Chillwave is the genre most seem to have settled on - but two EPs, two studio albums, two international tours, a deal with SubPop and a Letterman performance later, Greene doesn't seem like he's settling in any other way anytime soon.

"It really took me a couple of years to figure out my own approach to live shows, how to make them happen in a controlled way," says Greene, 31. He's currently touring in support of 2013's Paracosm with a five-piece band (including his wife, Blair, on synth and vocals) — a notable departure from his beginnings as a bedroom artist with a DJ setup. He'll bring the show to the

NEWS

Fillmore Ian. 28 and 29. "There were a couple of technological breakthroughs I had...where [earlier] some of the things I was doing in the studio, I wasn't able to figure out how to accomplish live."

Coming out from behind the computer screen has had its challenges, he says, but he's committed to creating live music with a band rather than simply pressing play a move that's shifted his focus to vocal performance.

"In the studio, I could double my voice 100 times if I wanted to," he says. "But if we're on stage and it's just five of us, by necessity it's kind of stripped-down, and the live shows definitely have a different vibe because of that."

"But harmonies have always been a pretty important part of the Washed Out sound," he says. "When I first started the Washed Out project, actually, I wasn't really thinking about singing myself — I was going to bring in someone else to sing, and I was just recording myself as a holding place. I didn't feel like my voice was very good, so part of the process was layering a ton of different vocal takes on top of each other just to make it sound better. After a long period of doing that, it became the sound, and the music was discovered, and it kind of took on a life of its own." Most of the vocals on the new record are still layered several times over, he says. Vocals, to Greene, are "just an instrument in the mix."

A longtime friendship with electronic artist Toro Y Moi — Greene and Chaz Bundick went to high school together — has also meant a like-minded artist to bounce ideas off of.

"He's probably the most talented musician I've ever worked with — just a super creative guy," says Greene. "We were really lucky that we started getting recognition around the same time, and eased into doing this professionally together...I didn't have any contacts in the music business [starting out], and I remember having phone calls with him where we would catch up, [talk over] what we were going through. I didn't have that with anyone else."

"His music just keeps getting better and better," Greene adds. ""Plus all the guys in my band grew up with the dudes in the Toro Y Moi band, so it's kind of like a big family."

The first half of 2014 will see Washed Out touring nearly nonstop, including an appearance at Coachella. He's ready for it. He's energized by Paracosm, with its warm, lush instrumentation, its constructed sense of escapism the album's title itself refers to the concept of a fantasy world. That correlates heavily with the newer record's vibrant visual art, he says, as opposed to the stark white design of 2011's Within & Without.

"This newer stuff is a lot more vibrant-feeling, so the colors seem to suit it well," he says. "It's all about the music. That will lead the way most of the time." sfbg

#### WASHED OUT

With Kisses Jan. 28-29, 8pm, \$25 Fillmore 1805 Geary, SF www.thefillmore.com





### **MUSIC NIGHTLIFE**

SUBB-AN PLAYS AUDIO, SAT/25.



BY MARKE B. marke@sfbg.com

**SUPER EGO** Can we give it up for at least six months of no new hyped-up microgenre of dance music hitting us over the heads? I feel adrift in a vortex of diverse styles, vibing to deep individuality. I mean, I adore — and, in the increasingly globalized scene, fear for — the future of killer regional sounds, from Chicago footwork and Berlin post-minimal to UK bass and Ibiza tech house. Let's hope scenes and schools still gather around and amplify organic sounds on local streets and in local bedrooms. It certainly makes dance music easier to write about. But there seems to be a sigh of relief emanating from the turntables lately, a sense of anything good goes. Enjoy it before the next possibly questionable trend takes hold!

#### **NICK MONACO**

The dreamy tech house upstart from the Soul Clap and dirtybird labels starts a monthly third Thursday residency at Monarch called hey Young World. (Why they didn't call it Mon@ Mon, we'll never know.) First guest star: Justin Martin. Expect hotties.
Thu/23, 9:30pm-3am, \$10 advance. Monarch, 101 Sixth St, SF. www.monarchsf.com

#### LUCIDITY

"A lush, immersive atmosphere, with blissful beats" welling up from the more pyschedelic, melodic sides of darkwave, goth, and chillwave — in a tiki bar, no less. DJs Fact.50 and Bildo drop tunes from Visage to Washed Out, while you dive into your flaming volcano.

Fri/24, 9pm, free. Forbidden Island, 1304 Lincoln, Alameda. www.facebook.com/luciditydreamwave

## SOME THING FOUR-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Wow, four years of the city's most artfully forward drag and all-night Friday dancing. You can just bet some queens gonna jump out of cake. Or be one! Glamamore, VivvyAnne ForeverMore, and DJ Down-E welcome guest DJ Stanley Frank Sensation, a huge cast of gender clowns, and you. Fri/24, 10pm-4am, \$8. The Stud, 399 Ninth St, SF. www.tinyurl.com/somthing4

#### **ROBAG WRUHME**

The prolific German, one half of the gonzo Wighnomy Brothers, has been on the scene since the breakdance days, but found his voice, gorgeously, during the heady minimal techno era. He'll layer on some outright, glowing soulfulness at the As You Like It party, with andhim and Session Victim.

Sat/25, 9pm-5am, \$20 advance. Public Works, 161 Erie, SF. www.ayli-sf.com

#### **BENOIT AND SERGIO**

The last time this slick yet intelligent DC-Berlin tech house duo appeared here, they put on a bonkers show that had people talking for weeks. This more intimate appearance is sure to show off their lush, sensuous side, while still slaying the dance floor. At the Lights Down Low party.

Sat/25, 10pm-3am, \$25. Monarch, 101 Sixth St., SF. www.monarchsf.com

#### **CAZWELL**

So glad the era of gay novelty rap seems to be over. No one could top the classic Cazwell, anyway, who takes on contemporary gay life with some actually funny double-entendres (and no lack of actual sex appeal). Hop on his ice cream truck as the Big Top party returns to the Castro. Sat/25, 9pm, \$5-\$10. Beaux, 2344 Market, SF. www.beauxsf.com

#### **SUBB-AN**

Three years ago, I hung out with this Britcat while he lit up Berlin's Panorama Bar crowd with a sharp, driving take on typically warmer house sounds. It's all in the way he plays 'em. With Super Flu and the Modular party crew.

Sat/25, 9:30pm-2:30am, \$10-\$25. Audio, 316 11th St, SF. www.audiosf.com **sfbg** 

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#### **WEDNESDAY 22**

#### ROCK

**Bottom of the Hill:** Giggle Party, Sweat Lodge, Nasty Christmas, 9 p.m., \$8. Brick & Mortar Music Hall: Brave Ulysses, Winnie

Christian, 8 p.m., \$5-\$8. Chapel: Black Cobra Vipers, Yesway, Annie Girl

& The Flight, 8 p.m., \$12. El Rio: Joe Shambeaux & The Doctors, Zbörnak,

Hemlock Tavern: Bad Coyotes, The Shirks, Musk,

The Shanghais, 8:30 p.m., \$6. **Knockout:** Cumstain, That Ghost, Bloom, Sharky Coast, DJ Special Lord B, 9:30 p.m., \$6.

Make-Out Room: UFOFBI, White Rainbow, 7:30 p.m., \$5.

Milk Bar: Bonnie & The Bang Bang, Down Dirty Shake, DonCat, Young Creatures, 8:30 p.m., \$5. **Rickshaw Stop**: J.D. Wilkes & The Dirt Daubers, Trainwreck Riders, 8 p.m., \$10-\$12.

#### DANCE

Beaux: "BroMance: A Night Out for the Fellas," 9 p.m., free.

Cat Club: "Bondage A Go Go," w/ DJs Damon, Tomas Diablo, & guests, 9:30 p.m., \$5-\$10. Club X: "Electro Pop Rocks: EPR-UV," 9 p.m., \$15-\$20. Elbo Room: "Bodyshock," w/ Plack Blague, Scott Arford, DJs Crackwhore & Blk Rainbow, 9 p.m., \$7. **EndUp:** "Tainted Techno Trance," 10 p.m. Enuop: Tainted Techno Traine, 10 p.m., \$8: "Housepitality," Avatism, 9 p.m., \$5-\$10. Infusion Lounge: "Indulgence," 10 p.m. Lookout: "What?," w/ DJ Tisdale, 7 p.m., free. Madrone Art Bar: "Rock the Spot," 9 p.m., free. MatrixFillmore: "Reload," w/ DJ Big Bad Bruce,

Q Bar: "Booty Call," w/ Juanita More, Joshua J, guests, 9 p.m., \$3.

#### **THURSDAY 23**

#### ROCK

Amnesia: "Mods v. Rockers," w/ Warm Soda, Big Tits, The Seasides, 9 p.m., \$5. Boom Boom Room: Them Guns, Warm Orange.

9:30 p.m., \$5 advance.

Brick & Mortar Music Hall: Eyehategod, Graves at Sea, Hazzard's Cure, Bedrücken, 9 p.m., \$20-\$24. Chapel: Wooden Shjips, Carlton Melton, Golden Void. 9 p.m., \$14-\$16.

Independent: Superhumanoids, Sister Crayon, James Supercave, 8 p.m., \$12-\$14.

Knockout: Life Stinks, Victor Vapor, Shark Toys,

Gangrene Gang, 9 p.m., \$6. Make-Out Room: POW!, Warm White, Mane, 7:30 p.m., \$8.

Milk Bar: The Grandpa Paws, Vinyl Spectrum, We Are the Men, The Hudson Heat, 8 p.m., \$6-\$8. Red Devil Lounge: Roadside Memorial, Inferno of Joy, Altar de Fey, 8 p.m., \$7-\$10. **Slim's:** Stick Men, Grex, 8 p.m., \$23

#### DANCE

1015 Folsom: Nosaj Thing, Prefuse 73, FaltyDL, Ruff Draft, DJ Dials, Benito, Bdot, 10 p.m., \$17.50. Abbey Tavern: DJ Schrobi-Girl, 10 p.m., free.
Audio Discotech: Overwerk, Andy P, Shawn Steel, 9:30 p.m., \$10 advance. **Aunt Charlie's Lounge:** "Tubesteak Connection,"

w/ DJ Bus Station John, 9 p.m., \$5-\$7. **The Cafe:** "¡Pan Dulce!," 9 p.m., \$5. **Cellar:** "XO," w/ DJs Astro & Rose, 10 p.m., \$5. Club X: "The Crib," 9:30 p.m., \$10, 18+. Elbo Room: "Afrolicious," w/ DJs Pleasuremaker, Señor Oz, and live guests, 9:30 p.m., \$5-\$8. Harlot: "Set," w/ Mario Basanov, Tyrel Williams, Larry Gonnello Jr., 9 p.m., \$10 advance. Infusion Lounge: "I Love Thursdays," 10 p.m., \$10.

Madrone Art Bar: "Night Fever," 9 p.m., \$5.

Raven: "1999," w/VJ Mark Andrus, 8 p.m., free. Rickshaw Stop: "Popscene," w/ Betty Who, Holychild, DJs Aaron Axelsen & Omar, 9:30 p.m.,

Underground SF: "Bubble." 10 p.m., free. Vessel: "Base," w/ Adriatique, JOill, 10 p.m.

#### HIP-HOP

Eastside West: "Throwback Thursdays," w/ DJ Madison, 9 p.m., free. **Public Works:** "Free," w/ Antwon, \$u\$pect, Sad Andy, 10 p.m., free with RSVP. Skylark Bar: "Peaches," w/lady DJs DeeAndroid, Lady Fingaz, That Girl, Umami, Inkfat, and Andre,

#### JAZZ

Blush! Wine Bar: Doug Martin's Avatar Ensemble, 7:30 p.m., free.
Royal Cuckoo: Charlie Siebert & Chris Siebert,

7:30 p.m., free.
Savanna Jazz Club: Savanna Jazz Jam with Eddy

Ramirez, 7:30 p.m., \$5.

Top of the Mark: Stompy Jones, 7:30 p.m., \$10. Yoshi's San Francisco: Airto Moreira & Eyedentity,

Zingari: Barbara Ochoa, 7:30 p.m., free.

#### FRIDAY 24

50 Mason Social House: Bigleaf, Glowing Cat Eyes, Whirl, Luminous Newts, 9 p.m., \$10.

Started-Its, 9:30 p.m., \$10.

Brick & Mortar Music Hall: The Strypes, 9 p.m., \$12. DNA Lounge: Blood on the Dance Floor, Haley Rose, Davey Suicide, Awoken Shadows, Kat Haus rescheduled from Dec. 19, 2013, 7 p.m., \$17-\$20; One of Many, The Trims, Oranguhtango, The Skinny Guns, 8:30 p.m., \$8-\$10.

Hemlock Tavern: Useless Eaters, Scraper, Generation Loss, 9 p.m., \$6.

Slim's: Dent May, Jack Name, Chris Cohen, 9 p.m.,

Sub-Mission Art Space (Balazo 18 Gallery): Dot Punto, The Kaizoku, Creature Baby, 8 p.m., \$8.

#### DANCE

1015 Folsom: Passion Pit (DJ set), Vin Sol, Afrolicious Soundsystem, Jamie Jams, White Mike, Jays One, DJ Drome, 10 p.m., \$20 advance. Audio Discotech: Eric Volta, 9:30 p.m., \$10

BeatBox: "U-Haul," w/ DJs China G & Chelsea Starr, 10 p.m., \$5-\$10.

Cafe Flore: "Kinky Beats," DJ Sergio, 10 p.m., free. The Cafe: "Boy Bar," w/ DJ Matt Consola, 9 p.m., \$5. Cat Club: "Dark Shadows," w/ DJs Daniel Skellington, Melting Girl, Owen, and Keyz, 9:30 p.m., \$7 (\$3 before 10 p.m.).

Cellar: "F.T.S.: For the Story," 10 p.m. Elbo Room: "120 Minutes," w/ DJ Nate, Santa Muerte, Chauncey CC, 10 p.m., \$10-\$15. **EndUp:** "Fever," 10 p.m., free before midnight. **Grand Nightclub:** "We Rock Fridays," 9:30 p.m. Independent: Ryan Hemsworth, Space Ghost, DJ Dials, 9 p.m., \$15-\$17.

Infusion Lounge: "Escape Fridays," 10 p.m., \$20. Lookout: "HYSL," 9 p.m., \$3. Madrone Art Bar: "I the '90s," w/ DJs Samala, Teo,

Mr. Grant, & Sonny Phono, 9 p.m., \$5.

Manor West: "Fortune Fridays," 10 p.m., free.

Mighty: "Throwback: '90s House Night," w/ Ren the Vinyl Archaeologist, Andrew Phelan, Tyrel Williams,

DJ Taj, Jayvi Velasco, 9 p.m., free before midnight Milk Bar: "Disorder: 1-Year Anniversary," w/ Inhalt, Vows (L.A.), High-Functioning Flesh, DJs Nickie &

Omar, 9 p.m., \$7. OMG: "Release," 9 p.m., free before 11 p.m.

Project One: KiloWatts, Plantrae, Bedrockk, Duffrey,

10 p.m., \$10-\$20. Public Works: "Heart Phoenix: Higher," w/ Francesca Lombardo, Christian Martin, Josh Vincent, Vitamindevo, Gravity, Shooey, DJ Dane, Layne Loomis, AM Rebel, 9 p.m., \$12-\$20. Q Bar: 456 Castro, San Francisco. "Pump: Worq It Out Fridays," w/ resident DJ Christopher B, 9 p.m., \$3.

Ruby Skye: Bassjackers, 9 p.m., \$25 advance.

S.F. Eagle: "Cub Trap," 8 p.m.
Temple: "Refresh," w/ David Gregory, Papa Lu, John Halohan, Quinn Jerome, more, 10 p.m., \$15. Underground SF: "Bionic," 10 p.m., \$5.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 22 >>>





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### **MUSIC LISTINGS**

CONT>>

**Vessel:** "Project X," w/ Matth & Feldy, Beau Kelly, 10 p.m., \$10-\$30.

Wish: "Bridge the Gap," w/ DJ Don Kainoa, 6-10 p.m., free

#### SOUL

Edinburgh Castle: "Soul Crush," w/ DJ Serious Leisure, 10 p.m., free, Underground SF: "Sissy Strut," w/ The Handsome Young Men. 10 p.m., \$3-\$5.

Yoshi's San Francisco: The Spinners, 8 & 10 p.m.,

#### **SATURDAY 25**

#### ROCK

Bender's: Fracas, P.R.O.B.L.E.M.S., Nihilist Cunt,

Bottom of the Hill: Owl Paws, James Riotto, Cave Clove, 9:30 p.m., \$10.

Brick & Mortar Music Hall: Mondo Drag, Wax

Children, Yogurt Brain, 9 p.m., \$7.
Chapel: !!!, Fine Steps, 9 p.m., \$20-\$22.
Hemlock Tavern: Hot Lunch, Once & Future Band,

Planes of Satori, 9 p.m., \$7.

Hotel Utah: New Spell, Dregas, Natalie John, 9 p.m., Knockout: "Shine On " w/ Soft Science, Silver

Shadows, Dissolve, UFOFBI, 9 p.m. Milk Bar: Before the Brave, Show Ponies, Grow &

Twine, 9 p.m., \$8-\$10. Rickshaw Stop: Mutual Benefit, Dan Casey, Dim Peaks. 9 p.m., \$10-\$12.

Sub-Mission Art Space: Hello Monster, Light the Rocket, The Boys After, more, 8 p.m., \$8.

#### DANCE

Audio Discotech: "Modular," w/ Subb-an, Super Flu, Chemical Ali, Pedro Arbulu, MFYRS, 9:30 p.m., \$10-\$25.

BeatBox: "Bearracuda," w/ DJs P-Play & Robert Jeffrey, 9 p.m., \$6-\$10.

Cafe Flore: "Bistrotheque," w/ DJ Ken Vulsion, 8 p.m., free. Cat Club: "Villainy: The Dance Club with a Dark

Side," DJ Tomas Diablo, more, 9:30 p.m., \$5-\$8 **DNA Lounge:** "Bootie S.F.," w/ A+D, DJ Surda, DJ Dada, Smash-Up Derby, Lucio K, Keith Kraft, more, 9 p.m., \$10-\$15.

**EndUp:** Shangri-La, 10 p.m., \$15-\$20. Infusion Lounge: "Set," 10 p.m., \$20.
Madrone Art Bar: "Blunted Funk," w/ resident DJs Sneak-E Pete & Chilipino, 9 p.m., \$5.

Mezzanine: Beats for Boobs: 10-Year Anniversary 7 p.m., \$35-\$100.



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Mighty: "The Road Back," w/ Stanton Warriors 10 p.m., \$15 advance.

Monarch: "Lights Down Low," w/ Benoit & Sergio, Cooper Saver, Richie Panic, 10 p.m., \$20-\$25. Public Works: "As You Like It," w/ Robag Wruhme, Andhim, Session Victim, more, 9 p.m., \$15-\$25. Ruby Skye: Cash Cash, Paris Blohm, 9 p.m., \$20. Slim's: Planet Booty, Midtown Social, FogDub,

DJ E Da Boss, 9 p.m., \$13. **Stud:** "Dark Room: 3-Year Anniversary," w/ Darienne Lake, Lady Bear, The Lady Hyde, Porcelain, Phatima, more, 9:30 p.m., \$8-\$10.

Temple: "Life," w/ Festiva, Tigran, Halloran, King Size Slap, Mario Dubbz, more, 10 p.m., \$20. **Vessel:** Chris Garcia, DJ Nile, 10 p.m., \$10-\$30.

#### **SUNDAY 26**

#### ROCK

Amnesia: Cowboy Ballet, Kelly McFarling, Spurs,

Bottom of the Hill: Red City Radio, Elway, Direct Hit!. 8 p.m., \$12.

Brick & Mortar Music Hall: Spindrift, San Francisco Raga Association, Cosmonauts, Cool Ghouls, DJ

Jodie Artichoke, 9 p.m., \$7-\$10. The Chapel: !!!, G. Green, 8 p.m., \$20-\$22. Hemlock Tavern: Get Dead, The Shell Corporation,

Payoff, 8:30 p.m., \$6. Thee Parkside: Silver Snakes, Griever, Children of God, Culture Abuse, 8 p.m., \$10.

#### DANCE

Beaux: "Full of Grace: A Weekly House Music Playground," 9 p.m., free. **Cellar:** "Replay Sundays," 9 p.m., free.

Edge: "'80s at 8," w/ DJ MC2, 8 p.m. Elho Room: "Dub Mission," w/ El Kool Kyle, DJ Sep, Vinnie Esparza, 9 p.m., \$6 (free before 9:30 p.m.). EndUp: "T.Dance," 6 a.m.-6 p.m.; "Sunday Sessions," 8 p.m.

Knockout: "Sweater Funk," 10 p.m., free. Lookout: "Jock," Sundays, 3-8 p.m., \$2.
MatrixFillmore: "Bounce," w/ DJ Just, 10 p.m.. **Q Bar:** "Gigante," 8 p.m., free. **S.F. Eagle:** "1982: We Can Dance If We Want To," w/ DJs Ben Holder & Chaka Quan, 7 p.m., \$5.

**Stud:** "Cognitive Dissonance," 6 p.m. **Temple:** "Sunset Arcade," 9 p.m., \$10.

#### **MONDAY 27**

#### ROCK

Brick & Mortar Music Hall: Emily Kinney, Megan Keely, The Octobers, 7:30 p.m., \$12-\$40. El Rio: Down Dirty Shake, Lady Stardust, Open Bar, 7 p.m., \$5.

Elbo Room: "Americalia," w/ Mark Matos, 9 p.m. \$7. Knockout: The Shape, Rad Cloud, Rachel & The Rats, Dave & Sabina, 9 p.m., \$8.

#### DANCE

DNA Lounge: "Death Guild," with DJs Decay, Joe Radio, Melting Girl, & guests, 9:30 p.m., \$3-\$5. **Q Bar:** "Wanted," 9 p.m., free. **Underground SF:** "Vienetta Discotheque," w/ DJs

Stanley Frank and Robert Jeffrey, 10 p.m., free.

#### **TUESDAY 28**

#### ROCK

Chapel: Black Cobra Vipers, Sandy's, Melvoy, 8 p.m., \$12.

Elbo Room: Wax Children, Void Boys, Niveles, Disappearing People, 9 p.m., \$7. Hemlock Tavern: Spooky Flowers, Sunhaze, Hotel Utah: Fever Fever, 8 p.m., \$8-\$10.

Knockout: Ultra Bidé, Street Eaters, Baus, DJ Jesse Luscious, 9:30 p.m., \$8.

#### DANCE

Aunt Charlie's Lounge: "High Fantasy," w/ DJ Viv, Myles Cooper, & guests, 10 p.m., \$2. Independent: Robert DeLong, Mystery Skulls, Aaron Axelsen, 8 p.m., \$15.

Monarch: "Soundpieces," 10 p.m., free-\$10.

Q Bar: "Switch," DJs Jenna Riot & Andre, 9 p.m., \$3. Underground SF: "Shelter," 10 p.m., free.
Wish: "Tight," w/ resident DJs Michael May & Lito, 8 p.m., free.sfbG

22 SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN OPINION MUSIC ARTS + CULTURE CLASSIFIEDS NEWS GOOD TECH FOOD + DRINK THE SELECTOR

# ARTS + CULTURE



# A comedian cursed

Michael Showalter defends dinner, under duress

BY EMMA SILVERS

esilvers@sfbg.com

**THEATER** For those of us who've been following Michael Showalter since he was but a flop-haired 20-something on MTV's The State — where he gave us, among other absurdist treasures. Doug, a rebellious teenager whose cool dad gave him frustratingly little to rebel against — there is no Showalter project too silly, too cranky, too obscure to love. Whether it was Stella, Michael and Michael Have Issues, or, say, the training montage from Wet Hot American Summer that burrowed its way weirdly into your heart, there's something about the comedian that's eminently, endearingly watchable.

Ahead of his appearances Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 at SF Sketchfest, we caught up with Showalter as he took a break in the writers' room of the Rebel Wilson TV show Super Fun Night (he's a producer) to talk cats, comedy, and what makes him feel like a loser.

San Francisco Bay Guardian You have several projects going on right now, but the first thing I need to ask about is a male-centric cat ownership guidebook you published last October: Guys Can Be Cat Ladies Too. How many cats do you have? Michael Showalter Right now I'm living in LA, and we have four indoor cats here. And then at our place in Brooklyn, there's a small posse of cats that live in my backyard, that are now being taken care of by the people subletting our place. At any given moment there are between three and six cats back there...so using the law of averages, I'll say I have seven.

**SFBG** Why did the world need a book about how to be a male cat lady? MS Basically, I really took to heart the saying "Write what you know." I looked around me and said "What do vou know?" As I was saying that I probably had two cats on my lap. My next book is going to be about drinking coffee.

**SFBG** Since it's premiering at Sundance this week, what can you tell us about They Came Together (in theaters Jan. 24), the Paul Rudd-Amy Poehler romcom you made with your usual partnerin-crime David Wain? Do you think it will appease the hordes of Wet Hot American Summer fans who are

hungry for a sequel — or prequel, as has been discussed?

MS I'd say it's a parody/homage to the romantic comedies of the '80s and '90s that myself and David Wain sort of grew up on and loved. It's a combination send-up/love letter, based in New York. Obviously it's got a great cast...and yeah, it's very similar in a lot of ways [to Wet Hot]. It has a lot of the same sensibility to it, the reference points, the sense of humor.

**SFBG** Because I have to ask anyway: Is *there still a* Wet Hot *prequel in the works?* MS Yeah. We're figuring it out. But I've been instructed by David Wain not to talk about it, because we want it to be shrouded in mystery. Like the new Star Wars movie.

**SFBG** Fair. Shall we talk about your podcast with Michael Ian Black? How is that kind of writing different from screenwriting or, say, cat books? MS Topics! Topics is actually all improvised. Basically the two of us are in character as two guys who take themselves very seriously and think very highly of their own opinions. The main thing with Topics is we try not to tell jokes — we're just being these characters who are really, really serious about what they're talking about, but they don't actually know anything. We just start out with a topic and we improvise for half an hour. [Ed. note — December brought us such topics as "Regret." "The Middle East," and "Paranormal Activity." It's excellent.]

**SFBG** *There are some of us for whom* The State is still the gold standard in sketch comedy. Do you think it would work on TV right now? There hasn't really been anything like it since.

MS You know, I think we were very

much a product of our generation. It was Kids in the Hall and The State and the *Upright* Citizens Brigade...and I think at that time.

sketch comedy was still a kind of theatrical thing, it hadn't yet become so video-based. I don't know if sketch in that traditional sense is still as viable. But I'm sure another great sketch show will come along, figure out the next thing.

**SFBG** As for Sketchfest — of the events you're scheduled to perform in, I'm most excited about the Uptown Showdown debate on breakfast vs. dinner. Can you say what side you're on? MS (Sighs deeply.) OK, which do you think will win, should win?

**SFBG** I would say breakfast, hands down. MS Yeah. So I am on dinner. I did not choose to be on dinner: dinner was given to me. Here's the thing: This will be my fourth time competing in Uptown Showdown. The first time was cats vs. dogs. I was on cats, and we lost to dogs. The second time was Christmas vs. Hanukkah. I was on Christmas, and we lost to Hanukkah. The third time, last year, we did the '80s vs. the '90s, and I was on the '80s, and we lost to the '90s. So this year dinner vs. breakfast — I already know I'm going to lose, and I'm livid about it.

I'm not even joking. I could read you my emails back and forth with [the organizers] where they're asking me to do this and I'm saying I don't like it — here, I'll pull it up. I wrote, "I'm sick and tired of losing at this." I'm not being facetious. It's making me feel bad about myself. Like a loser. It really pisses me off.

SFBG How did this happen, exactly? Who gets to choose?

MS Here, let me find this email... "David Wain prefers that his team defend breakfast as the superior meal." Sure. What's the point? I know we'll lose. I have the Uptown Showdown curse.

> **SFBG** You sound pretty defeatist about this. Are you even going to prepare?

MS Oh, yeah. I mean, don't get me wrong. When it's game time, I'll come to do battle. sfbg

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### **ARTS + CULTURE THEATER**

PORO OYNA SHARES A HEROIC TALE FROM A DISAPPEARING **CULTURE IN NORTHERN JAPAN.** PHOTOS BY TAKAHIRO KOHARA







# In light and shadow

Spiritual redemption and hard truths mingle in the West Coast premiere of 'Poro Oyna'

BY ROBERT AVILA

arts@sfbg.com

**THEATER** Last week's performance of the shadow play Poro Oyna: The Myth of the Aynu, at Fort Mason's Southside Theater, began with a blessing in disguise.

As members of the cast and of the Aynu community gathered onstage ahead of the performance, four Aynu men in black shirts and traditional headbands and necklaces prepared to sing and dance. As the elder of the four explained, shadow master Larry Reed, founder and longtime artistic director of Shadowlight Productions, had asked if the Aynu folks in attendance could offer a short blessing to start things off.

"I didn't have a chance to tell Larry, we don't do blessings," confessed the man. "But we welcome people. And this is one of our most sacred dance stories; it's about family," he explained, adding that, with it, "we welcome you to our part of the world."

So began a rare, gently moving, and altogether charming encounter three years in the making. Co-produced by Shadowlight and Tokyo-based shadow theater company Urotsutenoyako Bayangans, Poro *Oyna: The Myth of the Aynu* brought together traditional Aynu artists and musicians with masters of the shadow theater form in the US and Japan to share a mythological world at once distinctive and not so far from our own.

Adapted by OKI and Koyano Tetsuro, and directed by Larry Reed (the Bay Area's master of a unique and potently cinematic style of modern shadow theater), the Aynu creation myth came to life on a stage and screen populated by a revolving and enrapturing set of

images and figures. Some were drawn, some were embodied by actors in masks, some walked out before the screen onto the darkened lip of the stage, like living, breathing, three-dimensional shadows. And just as the imagery contained a surprising set of rich hues amid its black-and-white scheme, the English narration came generously colored with snatches of Japanese and Aynu.

Heavy in the mix was a transporting score created by a wonderful pairing of masterful musicians. Accomplished musician and recording artist OKI (who, in addition to adapting the story, also oversaw the art direction) provided live accompaniment on a pair of tonkori, the traditional plucked stringed instrument of the Aynu people, as well as offering the first springing, playful tones of the night on a mukkuri (a wooden mouth harp). Meanwhile, in entrancing, syncopated rhythms, the four members of the female vocal group Marewrew channeled the traditional Aynu musical form of upopo.

The Aynu (also spelled Ainu) are a small community of people living in Hokaiddo, Japan's northern and second largest island. Indigenous to this area of northern Japan as well as to nearby Russia, the Aynu have a culture that stretches back more than 3,000 years. Having faced centuries of oppression, including forced assimilation, their culture remains little known even inside Japan, and their language (which has no written form) is at risk of disappearing entirely, with fewer than 15 native speakers left alive.

A large proportion of these were on hand in the creation and delivery of Poro Oyna. The title, which means "the great story," refers to the hero's journey of Aynu Rakkur, the most powerful of all the gods.

He is also a god who "smells like a human being," born (as we see in the opening scene) from the incendiary coupling of his father, the god of thunder, and his mother, a great elm tree. Indeed, Aynu Rakkur is considered the progenitor of the human race.

In ensemble member Kawamura Koheisai's impressive Balinese-inspired shadow designs, Aynu Rakkur's shadow self is a black and white portrait of grace and resolve, a noble profile protruding from a finely drawn latticework of hair. He's tough, goes his own way, and has a sly sense of humor. He lives beside Kaikaiunt, a sacred lake and the source of all life. One day a growling, cockeyed monster with a fearsome under bite and an unpronounceable name (rattled off in a long string of Aynu sibilants actually delighting to the ear) steals the Sun Goddess and plunges the world into darkness and a perpetual sleep from which many humans never awake.

As other lesser gods try and fail to wrest the sun from the clutches of the monster, Aynu Rakkur bides his time, doggedly carving away at something that turns out to be "a bear for a flat screen TV." Finally taking umbrage at finding his front door pinned down with arrows and spears, he seeks out the monster and the two of them tumble deep down into the Underworld, where they battle for some six years.

The happy ending might have been expected, but it came, under the circumstances, with what felt too like an auspicious beginning.

"The people come back, the sun returns," rejoices the narrator, "our sacred power is getting stronger every day." sfbg

www.shadowlightaynuproject.org

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# **Vanishing point**

BY RITA FELCIANO

arts@sfbg.com

DANCE Sitting at her large desk overlooking the intersection of Mission and 24th Street, Krissy Keefer speaks eloquently and movingly about the genesis of Hemorrhage: An Ablution of Hope and Despair, the latest work for her 10-woman Dance Brigade Company.

Keefer is a dancer-choreographer-activist who has always enthusiastically plowed into the morass of the social, environmental, and political concerns of the day. Her works are issue-oriented, theatrically savvy, and entertaining, not least because of her sense of humor. Keefer may be deadly serious about her art, but she doesn't take herself all that seriously.

But on a recent Saturday afternoon, as her crew prepared the main theater for a rehearsal of Hemorrhage, you couldn't help but notice a note of fatigue, even despair, in her passionate takedown of the types of disasters that drain us of our humanity with ever-increasing frequency.

Keefer admits to being a news junkie. She has her ear to the ground, not just locally; she's in tune with Midwest farmers who can't plant crops because of the drought, multi-millionaire Chinese who leave their fellow citizens behind, and the survivors of Fukushima and Hurricane Sandy. Where are they, she wonders, how do people survive? "If you pay attention, you live with hope and despair. You obsess with hope, but what you feel underneath is actually despair. If you are not feeling some kind of despair, you are not paying attention."

But couldn't the increased flood of disaster information be the result of our sensationalist 24/7 news cycle? She doesn't think so, believing instead that violent upheavals have actually become more frequent:

the environment, [for instance], is completely despairing." Included in her indictment are not only the governmental, corporate, and financial forces that act out of self-interest, but also a progressive movement that she believes has not acted strongly and decisively enough.

But Keefer's major preoccupation at the moment is what she calls the "the corporate monsters — the last robber barons," who are destroying a culture she has helped build. She lives and works in the Mission, and raised her daughter there. In the last 12 years, Dance Mission Theater has become a community institution, offering classes for adults and children, and providing affordable rehearsal and performance space. These days, when she looks through her office window and sees all those Silicon Valley-bound buses swarming past, she wants to pull out her hair.

"I feel very protective of the culture that we have created in San Francisco. You put layer upon layer on it, from the longshoremen, the Beat poets, the Black Panthers, the hippies, the gay and lesbian solidarity movement, feminism, the immigrant communities. It's like layers of cheesecloth that you lay down, and this is the culture that came out of it. I participated in that, I am dedicated to it, and I am devastated by its being pulled apart." Mincing no words, she adds, "It's one of the cultures that keeps our country from sliding into fascism."

So Keefer is stepping into the trenches as she always has done: as an artist. Walking into the theater, you realize this is the messiest set she (with Kate Boyd) has ever created. It's one big junk pile, taking over half the theater and filling the bleachers from top to bottom. It makes you think of the outskirts of Mumbai and Manila, where thousands of people try to eke

a living from whatever they can salvage. Where did Dance Brigade get the wheel drums, broken crock pots, fans, at least one bathtub, lace curtains, suitcases, Christmas tree ornaments, and enough body parts to reassemble several automobiles?

Hemorrhage takes on

Dance Brigade's

SF's identity crisis

"We went to a wrecking yard," Keefer laughs. "They deliver."

Thinking of herself and her dancers as having been exiled from their city, as so many people have recently been, she envisioned Hemorrhage as a work about having to live on the edges. "Women always are more vulnerable during catastrophes," she says, "because they take care of the children."

For the script, she drew on her own writing but also that of fellow San Franciscans Rebecca Solnit (Hollow City: The Siege of San Francisco and the Crisis of American Urbanism) and performer-activist Guillermo Gómez-Peña, shaping it as a running monologue — a rant, a poem, a meditation, a political manifesto — that runs through the piece and ties it together.

And what do her nine women performers, most of whom have been part of Dance Brigade for close to 20 years, contribute? They sing, they shout, they play the drums, they dance; fiercely, proudly, unstoppably, full of hope, and full of despair. sfbg

#### HEMORRHAGE: AN ABLUTION OF HOPE AND DESPAIR

Through Feb. 8 Opens Fri/24, 8pm; Thu-Sat, 8pm (Feb 8, shows at 4 and 7pm); Sun, 6pm, \$20-\$25 Dance Mission Theater 3316 24th St. SF www.dancemission.com

#### STANDING STRONG: THE WOMEN OF DANCE BRIGADE

PHOTO BY MILY TRABING









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DAVID SINAKO AND PONDER GODDARD CHOW DOWN IN CUTTING BALL'S NEW TAKE ON ALFRED JARRY'S UBU ROI.

PHOTO BY SARAH ROLAND

Stage listings are compiled by Guardian staff. Performance times may change; call venues to confirm. Reviewers are Robert Avila, Rita Felciano, and Nicole Gluckstern. Submit items for the listings at listings@sfbg.com.

#### THEATER

#### **OPENING**

Hemorrhage: An Ablution of Hope and Despair Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St, SF; www.dancemission.com. \$20-25. Opens Fri/24, 8pm, Runs Thu-Sat, 8pm (Feb 8, shows at 4 and 7pm); Sun, 6pm. Through Feb 8. Dance Brigade presents this "dance installation at the intersection of the new San Francisco and world

Lovehirds Marsh San Francisco Studio 1062 Valencia, SF; www.themarsh.org. \$15-50. Previews Thu/23-Fri/24, 8pm. Opens Sat/25, 8:30pm. Runs Thu-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8:30pm. Through March 15. Theater artist and comedian Marga Gomez presents the world premiere of her 10th solo show, described as "a rollicking tale of

incurable romantics."
"SF Sketchfest: The San Francisco Sketch Comedy Festival" Various venues, SF; www. sfsketchfest.com. Prices vary. Jan 23-Feb 9. This year's 13th Sketchfest features over 200 shows in more than 20 venues, featuring both big-name talents (Alan Arkin, Tenacious D. Laura Dern and the cast of Enlightened, Maya Rudolph, etc.) and up-and-comers, plus tributes to films, theatrical and musical events, improv showcases, and more. Much, much, much

Ubu Roi Exit on Taylor, 277 Taylor, SF; www. cuttingball.com. \$10-50. Previews Fri/24-Sat/25, 8pm; Sun/26, 5pm. Opens Jan 30, 7:30pm (gala opening Jan 31, 8pm). Runs Thu, 7:30pm: Fri-Sat. 8pm (also Sat. 2pm): Sun. 5pm. Through Feb 23. Cutting Ball Theater performs Alfred Jarry's avant-garde parody of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, presented in a new translation by Cutting Ball artistic director Rob Melrose

Geezer Marsh Berkeley, 2120 Allston, Berk; www.themarsh.org. \$25-50. Opens Thu/23, 8pm. Runs Thu, 8pm; Sat, 5pm. Through March 1. Geoff Hoyle moves his hit comedy about aging to the East Bay.

The Grapes of Wrath Hillbarn Theatre, 1285 E. Hillsdale, Foster City; www.hillbartheatre.org. \$23-38. Opens Fri/24, 8pm. Runs Fri-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2pm. Through Feb 9. Hillbarn Theatre continues its 73rd season with Frank Galati's adaptation of John Steinbeck's classic American

Man in a Case Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2015 Addison, Berk; www.berkeleyrep.org. \$45-

125. Previews Sat/25, 8pm. Opens Sun/26, 7pm. Runs Tue and Thu-Sat, 8pm; Wed, 7pm; Sun. 2pm. Through Feb 16. Mikhail Barvshnikov returns to Berkeley Rep to star in a play based on a pair of Anton Chekhov's short stories "Man in a Case" and "About Love." Obie-winning Big Dance Theater stages the high-tech adaptation.

#### ONGOING

Foodies! The Musical Shelton Theater, 533 Sutter, SF; www.foodiesthemusical.com. \$32-34. Fri-Sat, 8pm. Open-ended. AWAT Productions presents Morris Bobrow's musical comedy revue all about food.

Jerusalem San Francisco Playhouse, 450 Post, SF: www.sfplayhouse.org, \$20-100. Previews Wed/22/-Thu/23, 7pm; Fri/24, 8pm. Opens Sat/25, 8pm. Runs Tue-Thu, 7pm; Fri-Sat, 8pm (also Sat, 3pm); Feb 2, 9, 16, 2pm. Through March 8. SF Playhouse performs the West Coast premiere of Jez Butterworth's Tony- and Olivierwining epic.

Major Barbara ACT's Geary Theater, 415 Geary, SF; www.act-sf.org. \$20-140. Tue-Sat, 8pm (also Wed/22 and Jan 29, 2pm); Sun, 2pm. Through Feb 2. American Conservatory Theater performs a new production of George Bernard Shaw's political comedy.

Noises Off Shelton Theater, 533 Sutter, SF;

www.sheltontheater.org. \$38. Thu-Sat, 8pm. Through Feb 8 Shelton Theater presents Michael Frayn's outrageous backstage comedy. Pardon My Invasion Phoenix Theatre, 414 Mason, SF; pardonmyinvasion.brownpapertickets.com. \$15-30. Thu-Sat, 8pm; Sun/26 and Feb 2, 2pm. Through Feb 8. A pulp fiction writer's characters come to life in this dark comedy

by Joy Cutler. The Paris Letter New Conservatory Theater Center, 25 Van Ness, SF; www.nctcsf.org. \$25-45. Wed-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2pm. Through Feb 23. New Conservatory Theatre Center performs Jon Robin Baitz's tale of a Wall Street powerhouse desperately trying to keep his sexual identity a

The Pornographer's Daughter Z Below, 470 Florida, SF; www.zspace.org. \$32. Opens Wed/22, 8pm. Runs Thu-Sat, 8pm (also Sat, 10:30pm): Sun. 5pm. Through Feb 16. Liberty Bradford Mitchell, daughter of Artie Mitchell (half of porn's infamous Mitchell Brothers, he was shot and killed by brother Jim in 1991), performs her solo show about "growing up on the fringes of an X-rated world."

Shit & Champagne Rebel, 1772 Market, SF shitandchampagne.eventbrite.com. \$25. Fri-Sat, 8pm. Through Feb 8. D'Arcy Drollinger (Sex and the City Live) performs "a whitesploitation comedy with dance.

The Speakeasy Undisclosed location (ticket buyers receive a text with directions), SF; www. thespeakeasysf.com. \$60-90 (add-ons: casino chips, \$5; dance lessons, \$10). Thu-Sat, 7:40,

7:50, and 8pm admittance times. Through March 15. Boxcar Theatre presents Nick A Olivero's re-creation of a Prohibition-era saloon, resulting in an "immersive theatrical experience involving more than 35 actors, singers, and

Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind Boxcar Playhouse, 505 Natoma, SF; www.sfneofuturists.com. \$11-16. Fri-Sat, 9pm. Through Jan 31. Thirty plays in 60 minutes, with a show that varies each night, as performed by the Neo-Futurists

The World's Funniest Bubble Show Marsh San Francisco, 1062 Valencia, SF; www.themarsh. org. \$8-11. Sun. 11am. Through March 9. The popular, kid-friendly show by Louis Pearl (aka "The Amazing Bubble Man") returns to the Marsh.

#### **BAY AREA**

Can You Dig It? Back Down East 14th the 60s and Beyond Marsh Berkeley, 2120 Allston, Berk; www.themarsh.org. \$20-35. Sat. 8:30pm; Sun, 7pm. Through Feb 2. Don Reed's new show offers more stories from his colorful upbringing in East Oakland in the 1960s and '70s. More hilarious and heartfelt depictions of his exceptional parents, independent siblings. and his mostly African American but ethnically mixed working-class community — punctuated with period pop, Motown, and funk classics, to which Reed shimmies and spins with effortless grace. And of course there's more too of the expert physical comedy and charm that made long-running hits of Reed's last two solo shows, East 14th and The Kipling Hotel (both launched, like this newest, at the Marsh). Can You Dig It? reaches, for the most part, into the "early" early years, Reed's grammar-school days, before the events depicted in East 14th or Kipling Hotel came to pass. But in nearly two hours of material, not all of it of equal value or impact, there's inevitably some overlap and indeed some recycling. Note: review from an earlier run of the show (Avila)

Sherlock Holmes: The Broken Mirror Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant, Berk; www. brownpapertickets.com, \$20-28. Thu-Sat. 8pm; Sun, 3pm. Through Jan 26. Jeff Garrett portrays all the characters (Sherlock, Watson, Mrs. Hudson, Moriarty...) in this adaptation of William Gillette's Holmes play.

**Silent Sky** TheatreWorks, Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro, Mtn View; www.theatreworks.org. \$19-73. Tue-Wed, 7:30pm; Thu-Sat, 8pm (also Sat, 2pm); Sun 2 and 7pm. Through Feb 9. Lauren Gunderson's drama explores the life of groundbreaking early 20th century astronomer Henrietta Leavitt. Tristan & Yseult Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre, 2025 Addison, Berk; www.berkeleyrep.org. \$17.50-81. Wed/15, 7pm; Thu/16-Sat/18 8pm (also Thu/16, 2pm). Kneehigh presents an innovative take on the ancient love-triangle

tale, seg

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MWAS (JOSEPH WAIRIMU, CENTER) AND FRIENDS LIVE ON THE EDGE IN NAIROBI HALF LIFE.











# Death life and

Archetypal tales, vibrant cinematic voices reign at the African Film Festival

BY CHERYL EDDY

cheryl@sfbg.com

FILM This week, the African Film Festival National Traveling Series touches down at the Pacific Film Archive, bearing seven features and a number of shorts. The only film to have previous local distribution is Andrew Dosunmu's Mother of George, about a Nigerian couple living in Brooklyn whose marriage is tested when the wife — played by Walking Dead badass Danai Gurira; her husband is Jim Jarmusch muse Isaach De Bankolé — fails to become pregnant with the son her in-laws demand. The gorgeous photography earned Bradford Young (who also lensed Ain't Them Bodies Saints) a cinematography prize at last year's Sundance Film Festival, and, appealing cast aside, his work is the main reason to catch George on the big screen.

The strongest film in the festival is the one that closes it: David Tosh Gitonga's crime drama Nairobi Half Life, submitted by Kenya as its first Best Foreign Language Film contender last year. Though it didn't make the Oscar shortlist (frankly, it was a tough year for foreign films, with Amour claiming all major accolades), it's easy to see why it made the cut. It's the not-unfamiliar tale of a rural dreamer named Mwas (the charismatic Joseph Wairimu) who sets out to



pursue an acting career in the big city ("where the devil lives," according to his mother). His improv skills are on point, but he is completely gullible, which makes him a prime target as soon as he arrives in "Nairobbery."

Urban life offers many hard lessons, whether it's Mwas finding his place in the gang he joins as a means of survival, or overcoming the snooty dismissals of the professional actors he enounters at theatrical auditions. In both realms, he gets in over his head, but he's a quick thinker and a talented hustler, which gives him an edge his opponents tend to underestimate. If Nairobi Half Life's script leans a little heavily on Mwas being caught between two worlds (alternate title suggestion: Nairobi Double Life), its energy is infectious and its presentation is polished — props to producer Tom Twyker (1998's Run Lola Run, 2012's Cloud Atlas), whose One Fine Day Film Workshop guided its making.

Director Lonesome Solo's more rough-hewn and downbeat Burn It Up Diassa also weaves a tale of desperation that culminates in violence, this time in Abidjan, the Ivory Coast's largest metropolis. Again, there's a conflicted young man at its center: Tony, or "Dabagaou" (as he's known in the 'hood), whose rise from cigarette seller to killer on the run is shared via a streetwise narrator who lays down story beats like a hip-hop version of Shakespeare; his scenes are the most cinematic amid what feels like an otherwise largely improvised effort. And indeed, Burn It Up Djassa

builds to a tragedy of Bardian proportions. You'll see it coming, but it's wrenching nonetheless.

Death is the main character in Alain Gomis' Dakar-set Tey, or "today," which takes place in a world that resembles ours but with one key supernatural difference: Those who are about to die are given 24-hour advance notice. One morning, seemingly healthy fortysomething Satché wakes up with the grim knowledge that this is his last day. By the same mysterious power, those closest to him — his family, friends, a bitter former lover, and his wife (though not, it seems, his young children) — are also made aware. Though there's a certain amount of wailing from his older relatives, Satché accepts his fate, drifting through a day that begins with a sort of living funeral, in which both praise and criticism are lobbed at him, and leads into a raucous street parade and hang time with friends.

As the day grows longer, it turns more melancholy; he visits the man who'll be preparing his corpse for burial, who reminds Satché he's lucky to know when his time is up so he has a chance to say his good-byes. But Tey isn't a total bummer of a movie — it has a dreamy quality and moments of humor, as when Satché shows up late to a ceremony held in his honor, but can't find anything to eat or drink at the completely pillaged catering table. That this dead man walking is played

by American slam poet Saul Williams (though Satché is Senegalese) adds to his inherent outsider vibe. The ticking clock breaks down any forced politeness in his encounters, particularly with his wife, which gives us an idea of what he like was before he knew he was about to die.

End-of-life issues also dominate Akosua Adoma Owusu's Kwaku Ananse, one of three films composing "Between Cultures: Recent African Shorts" (the other two. Faisal Goes West and the Quvenzhané Wallisstarring Boneshaker, were not available for preview; among the features, Damien Ounouri's documentary Fidaï, a portrait of his Algerian freedom-fighting great uncle, was also unfortunately unavailable). Kwaku Ananse casts the West African trickster character, Anansi (Americans know him from classic children's book Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti), as its main character's recently deceased father. The young woman has come to his Ghanan village for his funeral, and to confront the second family he was keeping on the side. The 25-minute work slowly becomes more fairy tale-like as it progresses, anchored by a solemn but fiery performance by lovely star Jojo Abot.

Elsewhere in the fest, a mockumentary from Cameroon (banned in Cameroon, not coincidentally) about what would happen if the president suddenly disappeared (Le Président) is paired with short Nigerian doc Fuelling Poverty; both examine deep-seated corruption in troubled, post-colonial economies. And for a

completely different audience (ages 7 and up) is Rémi Bezançon and Jean-Christophe Lie's Zarafa, the animated story of a young boy who escapes slavery in Africa and becomes enmeshed in the remarkable, mostly true story of the first giraffe to take up residence in France. sfbg

#### AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL 2014

Jan. 25-Feb. 26, \$5.50-\$9.50 Pacific Film Archive 2575 Bancroft, Berk. bampfa.berkeley.edu

# Global tension

Noir City 12 widens its focus — but it still ain't afraid of the dark

#### BY DENNIS HARVEY

arts@sfbg.com

FILM Though its definition has been stretched hither and yon to accommodate films that might appeal to the same retro-minded audience, film noir is a well you can go to only so many times before risking excess repetition or bottom-scraping. So CONTINUES ON PAGE 28 >>





LANDMARK SHATTUCE

#### Friday • January 31, 8PM (Doors open 7PM) Clint Eastwood takes on all manners of evil in the city by the

bay. With criminals at the point of his .44 Magnum, "You've got to ask yourself a question: 'do I feel lucky?' Well, do ya... Punk?!" Movie Classics feature 35mm film prints, a newsreel, cartoon, previews, Dec-O-Win raffle, and a live Wurlitzer organ serenade!

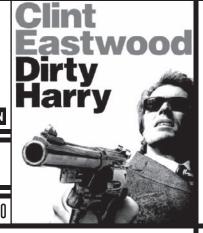
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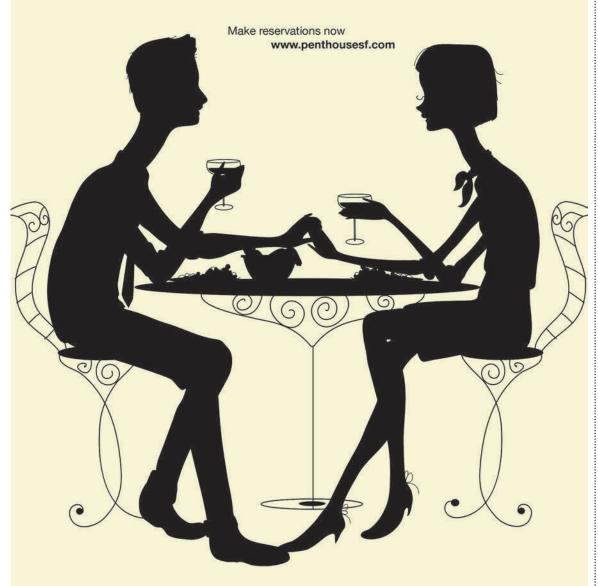
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### FILM FESTIVAL

#### **GLOBAL TENSION**

CONT>>

it's good news that the latest annual edition of SF-bred Noir City at the Castro Theatre — kicking off Fri/24 — expands its programming to the separate-but-equal terrain of 1940s and '50s crime melodramas made outside the genre's traditional home. Dubbed "It's a Bitter Little World," Noir City 12 has a smattering of Hollywood titles, but otherwise for the first time ranges far afield, hauling in tough dramas from places like England, Argentina, Germany, and Japan.

The somber post-war mood that spurred noir cinema was, in the US, fomented largely by the trauma and disillusionment suffered by both returning vets and those they came back to. But in many other nations, the damage was more than personal and psychological — people returned to cities reduced to rubble after years of fighting, surviving residents already accustomed to extreme deprivation. Plus, former allies and enemy combatants alike were now regarded with suspicion as they lingered at the war's end to oversee "reconstruction," the language and cultural gaps and unfamiliar new lines of authority in turn breeding new avenues of corruption and resistance.

Two films most directly dealing with that atmosphere are double-billed Mon/27. Made in 1946 (though it wasn't released in some parts of divided, occupied Germany until some time later), The Murderers Are Among Us was the first of the "trümmerfilm," literally "rubble film" — movies portraying Germans' struggles with recuperation and loss in the wake of humiliating defeat, not to mention the revelations of heinous Nazi war crimes. Returning home from a concentration camp, Susanne (Hildegard Knef) finds her Berlin apartment already occupied by Hans (Wilhelm Borchert), an embittered, alcoholic physician who no longer practices.

Forced to uneasily cohabit, they try to re-establish some semblance of ordinary life, though that effort is imperiled when former military doctor Hans discovers the superior officer he'd thought dead is in fact alive, well, and prospering - suffering no consequences at all for ordering the massacre of a hundred Polish civilians, including women and children. (Purportedly, occupying Soviet authorities insisted on changing the film's intended ending, fearing that if Hans actually assassinated the officer, viewers would be tempted toward vigilante justice themselves.)

Duly shot amid a city in ruins, *Murderers* remains potent stuff, even

if it soft-pedals certain aspects: For instance, concentration camp survivor Susanne is as Aryan as can be, the subject of a Jewish Holocaust apparently still being too touchy to mention. Knef (who actually had spent time in a prison camp) became an immediate star, a refreshingly unconventional one who spurned Hollywood offers and shrugged off outrage over a nude sequence (in 1950's *The Sinner*) with the memorable observation that such "tumult" was ridiculous coming "five years after Auschwitz!"

Its 1948 co-feature Berlin Express, directed by Jacques Tourneur (of 1942's Cat People and other horror classics) was a Hollywood production shot on location in Europe, with a multinational cast playing various figures traveling on a train from Paris to the German capital. When one who'd been an important German anti-Nazi resistance figure is killed en route, lingering wartime animosities are overcome to solve the crime — the tentative friendships among them a simple metaphor for the cooperation required among nations to rebuild after catastrophic conflict.

Less politically tilted, but also dealing with a devastated, immediately-postwar landscape, are Akira Kurosawa's first two collaborations with dynamic star Toshiro Mifune, screening Sun/26. Mifune plays a seriously ill crook in 1948's Drunken Angel, then crosses over to play a no-lessedgy junior member of the police force in the following year's Stray Dog. His protagonist in that film is mortified when the revolver he's issued is stolen on a tram, then used to commit a series of crimes. His obsessive pursuit of the weapon takes him deep into a remarkably seedy makeshift Tokyo of shanty towns, prostitution, and black markets, everyone flop-sweating amid oppressive summer heat.

Other films examine more ordinary, already-entrenched corruption in post-war power structures: Spanish Death of a Cyclist (1955) and Norwegian Death is a Caress (1949) find members of the social elite going to murderous lengths to hide their infidelities; two excellent British dramas from 1947, It Always Rains on Sunday and the Graham Greene-derived Brighton Rock, are bleak slices of lower-class lives driven to crime and desperation; florid Mexican melodrama Victims of Sin (1951) puts its glamorous heroine (blond Cuban Ninon Sevilla) through a mill of sexual hypocrisies and hot "African" dance numbers.

Noir City 12's US titles, aptly, focus mostly on international criminal and romantic intrigue: Anthony Mann's 1949 *Border Incident* involves Mexican immigrant-worker exploita-

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tion; the "exotic" settings are billed up front in 1947's *Singapore* (Fred MacMurray, Ava Gardner), 1952's *Macao* (Robert Mitchum, Jane Russell), and 1942's *The Shanghai Gesture* (Gene Tierney, Victor Mature). The latter two films were both directed by Josef von Sternberg, though only willfully camp *Gesture* fully recaptured the sensuous aesthetic excesses of his 1930s Dietrich vehicles.

Just one title here is strictly all-American, but it's an important one: Too Late for Tears is an independently produced 1949 "B" potboiler that fell into the public domain and has only been seen for years in inferior prints. The festival's Film Noir Foundation is premiering its own painstaking 35mm restoration of this little gem by subsequent sci-fi specialist Byron Haskin (1953's The War of the Worlds, 1964's Robinson Crusoe on Mars), wherein velvet voiced LA housewife Lizabeth Scott discovers a mighty capacity for greed, deception, and even murder once a bag full of stolen cash accidentally falls into her hands. SFBG

#### NOIR CITY 12

Jan 24-Feb 2, \$10 ("Passport" pass, \$120)

Castro Theatre 429 Castro, SF

www.noircity.com

Film listings are edited by Cheryl Eddy. Reviewers are Kimberly Chun, Dennis Harvey, Lynn Rapoport, Sam Stander, and Sara Maria Vizcarrondo. For rep house showtimes, see Rep Clock.

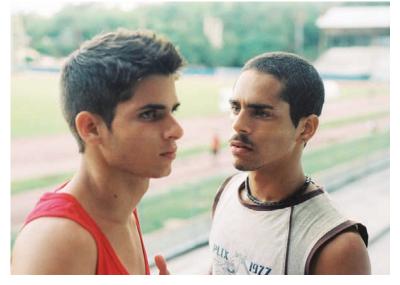
#### **OPENING**

G.B.F. High schooler Brent (Paul Iacono) decides his path to social success will be established once he comes out. I mean, duh — he'll become the pet pick of the would-be prom queens: the girl-with-the-best-hair Fawcett (Sasha Pieterse), drama mama Caprice (Xosha Roquemore), and Mormon good girl 'Shley (Andrea Bowen), and mad popularity will ensue. Alas, wholly unprepared comic-book fan Tanner (Michel J. Willet) gets outed first — and the battle for the O.G. G.B.F. (or "gay best friend") is on. Working with a fast, sassy, and slangy script — and teen comedy vets Natasha Lyonne Rebecca Gavheart, and Jonathan Silverman director Darren Stein (1999's Jawbreaker) has already traversed some of this uber-camp territory; yes, there's a multiplayer saunter down a high school hall and a major makeover montage. But the snappy, laugh-out-loud dialogue by firsttime screenwriter George Northy (fresh from the Outfest Screenwriting Lab), along with some high-speed improvising by the cast, makes for an effortlessly enjoyable viewing experience. (1:38) *Metreon*. (Chun)

**Gimme Shelter** Vanessa Hudgens plays a pregnant, homeless 16-year-old in this based-on-true events tale. (1:40) *Shattuck*.

I, Frankenstein Cobbled-together superhuman Adam Frankenstein (Aaron Eckhart) enters the fray when a war between gargoyles and demons breaks out. Needless to say this is based on a graphic novel (by screenwriter and actor Kevin Grevioux of the *Underworld* series). (1:33) The Last Match Yosvani (Milton García) and

The Last Match Yosvani (Milton García) and Reinier (Reinier Díaz) are barely adult, unemployed Havana residents on the margins, each living under a girlfriend or wife's roof, but more properly living under the thumb of that partner's parent. While Yosvani has it somewhat easy in the household of black marketeer Silvano (Luis Alberto García), Reinier has to peddle his body to tourists — for a while snagging a good one



in visiting Spaniard Juan (Toni Cantó) — to get by. There's a simmering attraction between the two ostensibly heterosexual best friends that won't make life any easier - and even when talented player Rey gets scouted by soccer pros his potential good fortune could be undone by a debt owed to Silvano, who is not to be fooled with. This leisurely but compelling drama, a Spanish-Cuban co-production by director-cow riter Antonio Hens (2007's Clandestinos) mixes a restrained love story (there's some nudity but not much hot-guys-making-out titillation here) with observation of Cuban social norms re macho vs. "down low" life, money (or the lack of it), and so forth. It's not wildly original in content or style, but there's an air of unassuming truth that makes the eventual turn toward tragedy feel more resonant than formulaic. (1:34) Opera

#### ONGOING

Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit Throwback
Terror Thursday, anyone? If the early Bourne
entries leapt ahead of then-current surveillance technology in their paranoia-inducing
ability to Find-Replace-Eliminate international
villains wherever they were in the world, then
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit flails in the
opposite direction — toward a nonsensical,
flag-waving mixture of Cold War and War on
Terror phobias. So when covert mucky-muck
Thomas Harper (Kevin Costner) solemnly
warns that if mild-mannered former Marine and
secret CIA analyst Jack Ryan stumbles, the US
is in danger of ... another Great Depression,
you just have to blink, Malcolm Gladwellstyle. Um, didn't we just do that? And is this
movie that out of touch? It doesn't help that

director Kenneth Branagh casts himself as the sleek, camp, and illin' Russian baddie Viktor Cherevin, who's styled like a '90s club tsar in formfitting black clothing with a sheen that screams "Can this dance-floor sadist buy you another cosmo?" He's intended to pass for something resembling sex — and soul — in Shadow Recruit's odd, determinedly clueless universe. That leaves a colorless, blank Chris Pine with the thankless task of rescuing whiney physician love Cathy (Keira Knightley) from baddie clutches. Pine's no Alec Baldwin lacking the latter's wit and anger management issues, or even Ben Affleck, who has also succumbed to blank, beefcake posturing on occasion. Let's return this franchise to its box firmly relegated to the shadows. (1:45) Marina, Metreon, 1000 Van Ness. (Chun) Ride Along By sheer dint of his ability to push his verbosity and non-threatening physicality into that nerd zone between smart and clueless, intelligent and irritating, Kevin Hart  $\operatorname{\mathsf{may}}$ be poised to become Hollywood's new comedy MVP. In the case of Ride Along, it helps that Ice Cube has comic talents, too — proven in the Friday movies as well as in 2012's 21 Jump Street — as the straight man who can actually scowl and smile at the same time. Together, in *Ride Along*, they bring the featherweight pleasures of *Rush Hour*-style odd-couple chortles. Hart is Ben, a gamer geek and school security guard shooting to become the most wrinkly student at the police academy. He looks up to hardened, street-smart cop James (Cube), brother of his new fiancée, Angela (Tika Sumpter). Naturally, instead of simply blessing the nuptials, the tough guy decides to haze the shut-in, disabusing him of any illusions he might have of being his equal. More-thanequal talents like Laurence Fishburne and John Leguizamo are pretty much wasted here — apart from Fishburne's ultra lite impression of *Matrix* man Morpheus — but if you don't expect much more than the chuckles eked out of Ride Along's commercials, you won't be too disappointed by this nontaxing journey. (1:40) Metreon, 1000 Van Ness, (Chun) sfbg







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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO

SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. Date of Filing Application: December 19, 2013. To Whom It May Concern: The name of the applicant is: SHABU BAR, INC. The applicant listed above is applying to The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 219 KING ST. SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107-1754. Type of Licens Applied for: 41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE - EATING PLACE, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 2014 The Annual Report of the Burk Chung Foundation, 837 Washington Street, San Francisco, California 94108 is available at the Foundation's office for inspection during regular business hours. Copies of the Annual Report have been furnished to the Attorney General of the State of California. Burk Chung, Trustee, Fiscal year ended November 30, 2013. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILED NO. A-0355289-00. The following is doing business as PIKITOS LLC 2336 Mission St. San Francisco, CA 94110. The busi ness is conducted by a limited liability company. Registrant commenced business under the above-listed fictitious business name on: 12/09/2013. This statement was signed by Ditson L. Garcia. This statement was filed by Guillermo Sandoval, Deputy County Clerk on 12/09/2013. Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2014 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR

CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUM-

BER: CNC-13-549999, SU-

PERIOR COURT 400 McAllister St. San Francisco, CA 94102. PETITION OF Sophie Soo Song-Fang for change of name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Pe titioner Sophie Soo Song-Fang filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Sophie Soo Song-Fang. Proposed Name: Sophie Sooiung Song-Fang. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING Date: 3/04/2014 Time: 9:00 AM Room 514. Signed by Donald Sullivan, Presiding Judge of Superior Court on December 20, 2013. Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2014

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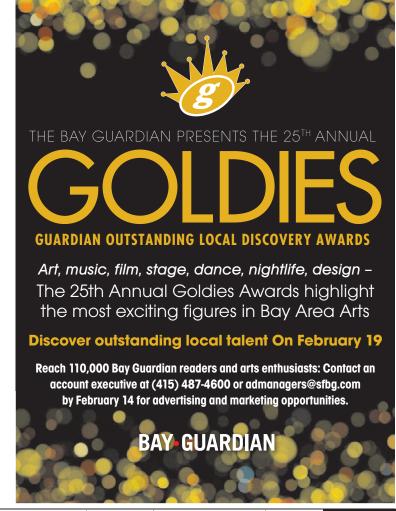
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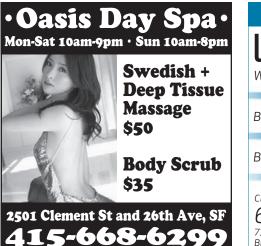
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